Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY

1990 May-June

G K V LIB
HARDWAR

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

028618

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

COMPILED

078618

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

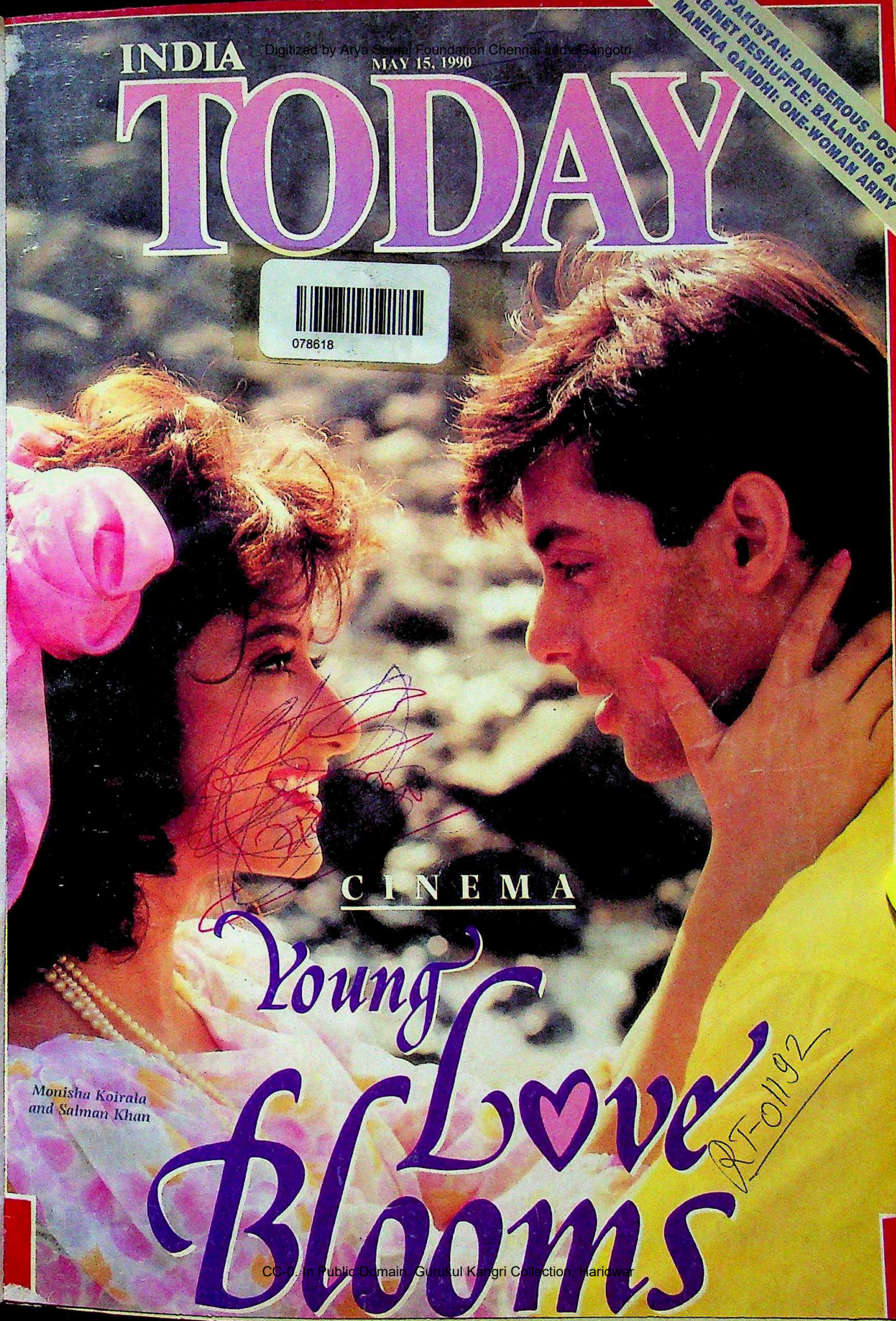
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY
MAY 15, 1990

078618

-PAKISTAN: DANGEROUS POS
ABINET RESHUFFLE: BALANCING A
MANEKA GANDHI: ONE-WOMAN ARMY



CINEMA

Young Love Blooms

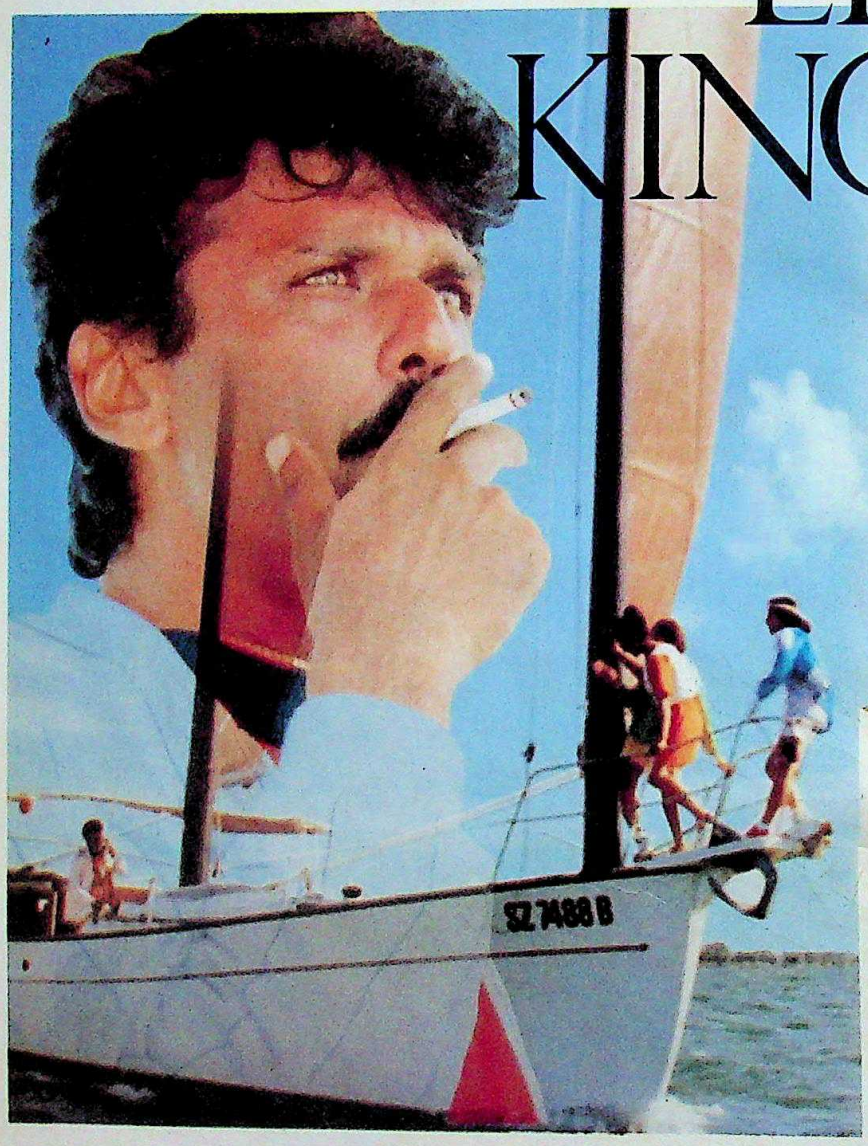
Monisha Koirala and Salman Khan

RT-01192

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

LIVE LIFE KINGSIZE



O&M/102

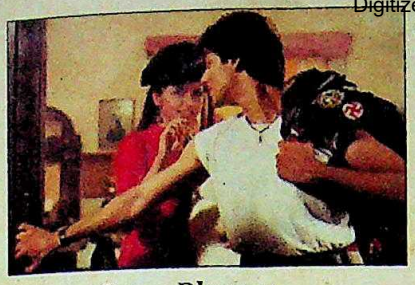
FOUR SQUARE
KINGS

All the taste, all the way

STATUTORY WARNING : CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

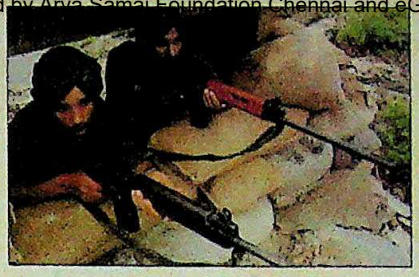
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Young Love Blooms

With the mind-boggling success of *Maine Pyar Kiya* a new romantic trend which was sparked off by *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak* and *Chandni* has reached its apogee. And with the big screen lovestruck, a treasure chest of love stories has been opened: over 60 romantic films are in various stages of production.

COVER STORY 130



Dangerous Postures

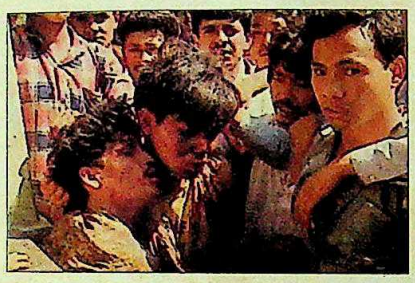
India and Pakistan are making dangerous war moves even as the Kashmir issue has got internationalised and the US is trying to defuse the situation. Plus an on-the-spot report from Kashmir on the efforts being made by the administration to contain the challenge posed by the militants.

SPECIAL REPORTS 22

Balancing Act

By adding 18 new ministers to his cabinet, Prime Minister V.P.Singh not only proved once again his acumen at keeping the contending factions happy but also showed who holds the reins in the party. There are 17 of his loyalists in the 40-member cabinet compared to Devi Lal's 6 and Ajit Singh's 5.

SPECIAL REPORTS 30



A Traumatic Transition

As mob violence and the subsequent police firing claims more lives in Nepal, the newly sworn in interim government teeters on the verge of collapse. Armed mobs supporting or opposing the new regime, stalk the streets, striking terror—and placing a big question mark on the future of the new Government.

NEIGHBOURS 125

One-Woman Army

As minister of state for environment, the 33-year-old Maneka Gandhi has not only breathed new life into a seemingly moribund department by leading from the front but has also raised a lot of dust because of her stern style and brash behaviour. Plus an interview with the high-profile young minister.

SPECIAL FEATURE 66

Paying the Price

Six years ago, in an emotional frenzy following Operation Bluestar, about 2,500 Sikhs deserted the army. Most of them were allowed to rejoin. But for the vast majority of those who were discharged from service, life has ever since been one continuous struggle to earn a livelihood.

SPECIAL FEATURE 82

CONTENTS

COMMENT 11
CAPITALOOK 14
VOICES 19
INDIANOTES 20
SPECIAL REPORTS
India-Pakistan: Dangerous Postures 22
Cabinet Reshuffle: Balancing Act 30
CURRENT EVENTS
Assam: Electoral Entanglements 35
Congress(I): New Moves 38
Andhra Pradesh: Land Grab 43
Delhi: State of Doubt 45
Punjab: Foul Play 49
Bihar: A Good Start 51
Bottomline: Shadow Cabinet 52
Kiran Bedi: In the Dock 57
Signposts 57
New Delhi: Capital Loss 59
Arun Bhatia: Under Attack 59
Uttar Pradesh: Ominous Signs 61
Uttar Pradesh: Dinner Deaths 64
SPECIAL FEATURES
Maneka Gandhi: One-Woman Army 66
Bihar: Altar of Death 75
Army Deserters: Paying the Price 82
BUSINESS FEATURE
Services Sector: Ballooning Growth 89
TRADE WINDS 97
BUSINESS
Air Taxis: Hail a Plane 100
Larsen & Toubro: A Tame Ending 104
Nhava-Sheva Port: A Dream Turns Sour 109
Exports: Illegal Drain 113
Bhilai: Short on Ore 115
The Markets: Bearish Mood 117
SPORTS
Hockey: Crippling Crisis 119
Archery: Bull's Eye 121
SPORTSWATCH
Selection Follies 123
NEIGHBOURS
Nepal: A Traumatic Transition 125
COVER STORY
Cinema: Young Love Blooms 130
MEDIA
Video: Irritant Images 141
HEALTH
AIDS: A Red Light 147
BOOKS
Dom Moraes: Difficult Images 148
EDUCATION
Graduate Record Examination: Blanked Out 150
LABOUR
Tobacco Units: Snuffing Out Lives 155
EYE-CATCHERS 160

Cover photograph by NAMAS BHOJANI

O&M/102

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

... Nor through your nose.

Believe it! Now you can merrily buy world class shirts for Indian money.

The best shirts in the world are not just available in your own town but they are also tropicalised, so to say, down to the last stitch to suit the Indian male. Your climate. Your physique. Your style. Your moods at work and play.

And most surprisingly, your pocket! So that now you can dress up and take revenge on all those over-priced shirts of the world. In your own currency.

BLUE CHIP.
Expensive looking,
but highly affordable.

A quality product from VIP

Collection, Haridwar

Avenues HH 921 90

For the gracious people

A GOLD FLAKE PRESENTATION

ART MOSAIC

An exhibition of paintings and sculpture by eminent Indian artists

Calcutta
Birla Academy of Art and Culture
April 14-22, 1990, 4 p.m.-8 p.m. (Monday closed)

Bombay
Cymroza Art Gallery
May 10-18, 1990, 10 a.m.-7 p.m. (Sunday closed)

New Delhi
Centre for Contemporary Art
May 30-June 9, 1990, 11 a.m.-7 p.m. (Sunday closed)

ART MOSAIC

Organised by **Purnima Productions**
Proceeds to SICW

W D & H O WILLS
GOLD FLAKE
HONEY DEW

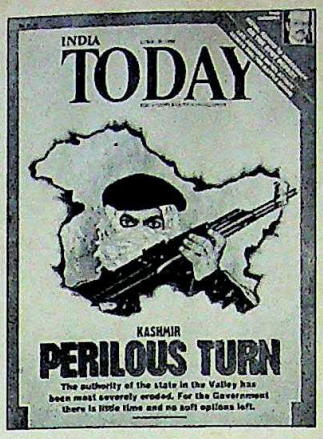
Quality that's forever

CLARION C-GFK 71

STATUTORY WARNING
CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

MADE IN INDIA
A BRAND OWNED BY I.T.C. LTD.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



DANGEROUS DRIFT

Instead of trying to prepare an adequate defence against Pakistan, the Government should go on the offensive by invading Pakistan Occupied Kashmir ("Perilous Turn", April 30). That is the only way it can exercise its grip on a rapidly worsening situation.

Kanpur — RAAJ GOPAL MEHROTRA

■ The cover story points out the urgent need of preventing the virtual takeover of the Kashmir valley by the militants. The situation is indeed grave as the subversives, encouraged and aided by Pakistan, continue to blast bombs and gun down people at will.

New Delhi — S.V. JASWAL

■ Since Governor's Rule has failed to check violence in spite of several swoops on militants, the Government should declare a state of emergency.

Bhubaneswar — D.J. PATRO

POLITICAL JOKER

By his misdemeanours, Devi Lal has upset the precarious equilibrium in the Janata Dal ("Can He Wreck the Government?", April 15). Devi Lal is indisputably dispensable for he is only a joker in today's political circus.

Bangalore — K. CHIDANAND KUMAR

■ Devi Lal is mistaken if he believes that he is a kingmaker who is responsible for making V.P. Singh prime minister. In fact, he is the deputy prime minister only because the Janata Dal is in power, and that in turn is because of V.P. Singh's efforts.

Kanpur — RAJPRIT SINGH

■ Meham may well become Devi Lal's Kurukshetra. His obsessive love for his son, which led to the entire resignation drama, makes him out to be Dritharashtra who has forgotten the ethics of democracy. But ultimately it is dharma that will prevail.

Gangtok — ANIL KUMAR YADAV

■ By submitting his resignation and then withdrawing it within 48 hours Devi Lal has shown the instability of his mind and of the Janata Dal.

Chandigarh — SANJAY CHOPRA

■ Though Devi Lal later withdrew his resignation, the drama has left indelible scars. He has not only tarnished his own image but that of his own creation, the Janata Dal.

Muzaffarpur — KHWAJA JAMAL

■ The cartoon on Devi Lal by Ajit Ninan and Anil Sharma was excellent. It ridicules even as it entertains; condemns even as it educates; and comments even as it informs.

Varanasi — BHARATI SANSI

■ Devi Lal's cartoon was the best cartoon of the decade.

Ahmedabad — GERRY BALAN

CHINK IN THE ARMOUR

"Sudden Dissent" (April 15) shows that even a disciplined party like the BJP is afflicted with factionalism. If the BJP's ambition to hold the reins of power in Delhi is to be realised, its leaders must curb indiscipline decisively.

Trichy — L. ROHINI

A SKEWED APPRAISAL

The comment ("More Rural Than Thou", April 15) was a skewed appraisal of what Devi Lal had observed. It projected a peripheral matter in his resignation letter instead of focusing on his chief complaint—that he had become a butt of ridicule and vilification by interested parties. Admittedly, the grievance was valid. As for Devi Lal's obsession with his rural background, nobody would say that the views expressed by a politician should be treated as gospel truth; at best they are matters to be examined at competent levels.

New Delhi — V.K. NARAYAN

DIFFERENT ROLE

I was surprised and pained to read "Elusive Office", (April 15). On February 1, I was in Aurangabad, Bihar, when Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed contacted me over the phone. He told me that the prime minister had named me for the governorship of Gujarat, and congratulated me. How could I not believe the home minister of the country?

However, I did not summon any press conference though I did attend farewell functions organised by my friends and well-wishers. When I reached Delhi, Gujarat Bhawan officials received me at the airport. At their request, I stayed in Gujarat Bhawan for a day. I spoke to the home minister from there and he told me that the notification would be issued in a day or two.

Later, I received a communication from the prime minister asking me to file my papers from Patna for the Rajya Sabha. He thought I would be more useful in Delhi's active politics. So, instead of going to the Raj Bhawan, I reached the Rajya Sabha.

New Delhi — SHANKAR DAYAL SINGH

UNTRUE STATEMENT

It was shocking to read Zail Singh's remark that he had never supplicated in front of anyone ("Lengthening Shadows", April 15). The fact is just the reverse as evidenced by his oft-repeated remark to sweep the floor for Mrs Gandhi. So much so that on his becoming President, it was said that earlier presidents were becoming puppets, now a puppet had become the President.

Amritsar — K.J.S. AHLUWALIA

MISERABLE PLIGHT

The producer of the movie based on Sabita Badhei's true story ("Poignant Script", April 15) should share at least a small portion of the enormous profits that his production has made with this brave suffering woman.

Mangalore — NARENDRA NAYAK

FOR THE ALLIANCE

The cover story ("Saffron Seer", March 31) mentions that A.B. Vajpayee, Jaswant Singh and I opposed the alliance

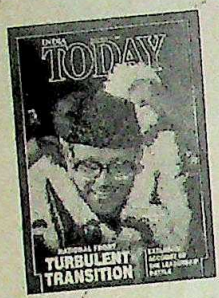
VOLUME XV NUMBER 9; FOR THE FORTNIGHT MAY 1–15, 1990

● EDITORIAL OFFICE LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. F-14/15, CONNAUGHT PLACE NEW DELHI 110001. PHONE: 3315801-4. TELEX: 31-61245 INTO IN CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● SUBSCRIPTIONS: LIVING MEDIA INDIA LIMITED. POST BOX 706. FARIDABAD-121007, HARYANA ● TRADE CIRCULATION: INDIA TODAY CIRCULATION MANAGER. F-14 CONNAUGHT PLACE. MIDDLE CIRCLE. NEW DELHI. PHONE: 3313076-8. TELEX: 31-62634 INTO IN ● ADVERTISING OFFICES: 28 A&B JOLLY MAKER CHAMBER II. NARIMAN POINT, BOMBAY-400021. PHONE: 2026152, 2029326, 2029435. TELEX: 11-5373 THOM IN. CABLE: LIVMEDIA. BOMBAY ● K-9, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI-110001. PHONES: 3325378, 3323576, 3321323 AND 3321273. TELEX: 31-62124 THOM IN. CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● FAGUN CHAMBERS, 26 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROAD. MADRAS-600105. PHONE: 477188, 479163. CABLE: LIVMEDIA MADRAS ● 74/1 ST. MARKS ROAD, BANGALORE-560001. PHONE: 213037, 212448; CABLE: LIVMEDIA. BANGALORE ● 12C EVEREST 46C CHOWRINGEE ROAD, CALCUTTA-700016. PHONE: 445398, 447726. CABLE: LIVINMEDIA. CALCUTTA ● COPYRIGHT 1987 LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. REPRODUCTION IN ANY MANNER IS PROHIBITED. PUBLISHED BY AROON PURIE FOR LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. NEW DELHI AND PRINTED AT THOMSON PRESS INDIA LTD, FARIDABAD HARYANA ● INDIA TODAY DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURNING UNSOLICITED PUBLICATION MATERIAL ●

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY
INTERNATIONAL EDITION



GIFT INDIA TO SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

GIFT FOR
ADDRESS
CITY CODE
COUNTRY

Please send one year's subscription of *INDIA TODAY*, International Edition and my gift card to the person named above. Enclosed is my cheque*/DD*/(add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques, ie. outside Delhi) for Rs.

payable to Living Media India Ltd.

MY NAME
ADDRESS

Send this advertisement and payment to:
Living Media India Ltd.
P.B. No. 706,
Faridabad 121 007

Annual Airmail Subscription Rates

Rs. 365 BANGLADESH BHUTAN NEPAL

Rs. 850 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES

*Cheques/Bank Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

with Shiv Sena. This is not correct. Most members expressed themselves mildly for or against the move. While Jaswant alone strongly opposed it, Jay Dubashi and I strongly supported it.

New Delhi — K.R. MALKANI

GROSS NEGLECT

It is regrettable that the Indian Government hasn't done much since Independence to counter Pakistani propaganda about Pakistan Occupied Kashmir ("The 'Other' Kashmir", March 31). Surprisingly, even Kashmiris haven't raised their voice to recover the part which is under Pakistani occupation.

Pune — V.N. KAPOOR

■ The present mess in Kashmir stems from the neglect of the valley by selfish politicians. For the politicians who want to grab power, Article 370 is merely a bait to trap the people of Kashmir.

Bhopal — S. KUMAR

BIASED VIEW

The feature ("An Alarming Exodus", March 31) was far removed from reality. The reason for the exodus of Kashmiri pandits is not just militancy but Islamic fundamentalism. As for the statement that the community is falling into the lap of Hindu fundamentalist organisations, one should not forget that the pandits are a highly educated class. And it was these organisations which came forward to help them. It has also been wrongly reported that the community has a monopoly in the state bureaucracy; in fact, they constitute only a small percentage.

Jammu — RAJINDER TIKKU

■ The report took a one-sided view. By saying that the RSS and the VHP are exploiting the refugees, it conveyed the impression that the JKLF is the only secular force in the valley. Worse, it makes one believe that refugees have left their houses just to make the hands of the RSS and the VHP stronger.

Agartala — SUBRATA RAY

■ The exodus of Kashmiri pandits is a pointer to the fact that the appeasement of the minority community will lead us nowhere. It is this policy of appeasement, adopted since 1947 by Jawaharlal Nehru and his successors, which is responsible for bringing things to such a pass. Article 370 of the Constitution has continued to be the sheet-anchor of Indian policy regarding Kashmir.

Belgaum — ROHIT KUMAR

A GRIM REALITY

The criminalisation of politics and the widespread violence during the last elections are a pointer to the grim situation facing the country ("The Enemy Within", March 31). Our politicians have opted to sacrifice higher national ideals at the altar of political expediency. While the politicians claim their heart beats for India, it is India which really bleeds.

Bombay — G.C. PUJARI

■ What India needs is some far-sighted statesmen rather than a host of self-seeking politicians who encourage communalism, class antagonism and regionalism for their selfish ends.

New Delhi — O.P. ANAND

■ Is it of any use preaching patriotism to those who already wear it upon their sleeves? As for enforcement of the law, they are both its makers and breakers.

New Delhi — SHALINI SETHI

A NEW DIMENSION

The new cricket kit and other games developed for the visually handicapped ("A New Vision", March 31) will certainly add a new dimension to recreation for the blind. It is heartening to know that innovative devices are being developed for the visually handicapped. At last, special attention is being paid to the children of a lesser god.

Calcutta — K.S. KRISHNAN

MATTER OF SHAME

Being a Keralite, I was ashamed to read "Diabolic Exploitation" (March 31) as such primitive beliefs are still prevalent in a state where the literacy rate is the highest in the country. Are we really marching towards the 21st century?

Bombay — RAGHUNATH K.

GOOD GOING

It's time someone gave CMC a pat on the back for an impressive growth record ("Controversial Growth", March 31). Having been a part of its marketing department, I can say with confidence that its employees led by Dr P.P. Gupta have worked their way to the top. Failures in some projects cannot be ruled out, especially when venturing into previously unexplored areas of computerisation. However, marketing and software exports are areas that CMC has yet to make a dent in.

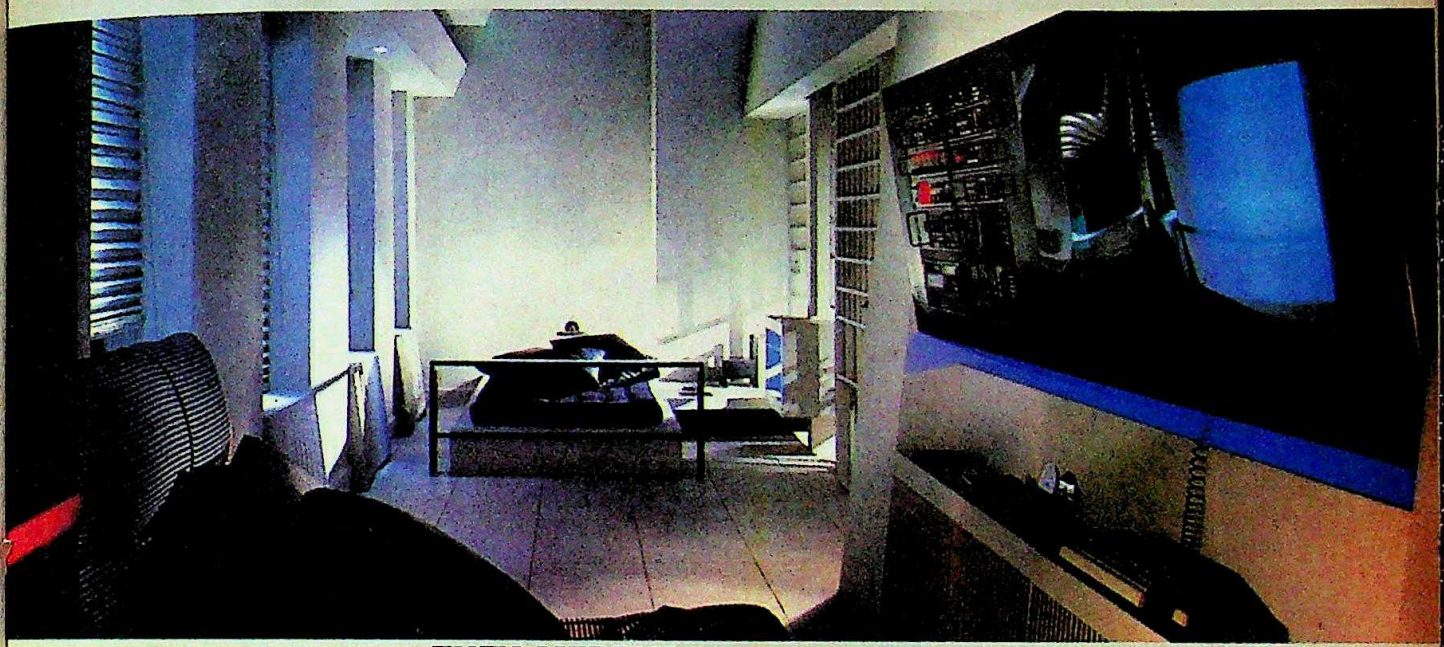
Louisville, US — PRADEEP GEORGE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

LLOYD PLATINUM OWNERS ARE NOT FUTUROLOGISTS BY DESIGN.

FEDDERS LLOYD



THEY MERELY SEE THE FUTURE FIRST.

Recognise the future of air conditioning in India. New Lloyd Platinum. An air conditioner so advanced, it's a whole generation ahead.

COOLING SYSTEM: DEFIES CONVENTION

Conventional aluminium fins are outdated. The cooling system of New Lloyd Platinum adopts aluminium fins indented with super slits, for swifter cooling.

A state-of-the-art compressor gives you an upsurge of cooling power.

The New Lloyd Platinum also introduces a 2 year warranty on the sealed system which includes the compressor.

Super slit fins

AUTO SWEEP MECHANISM: A DISPLAY OF INGENUITY

Switch on the New Lloyd Platinum. Adjust the horizontal deflector. Then let the vertical air deflector automatically sweep cool air—right across the room.

Auto sweep

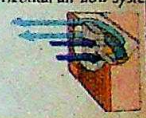
New Lloyd Platinum—the revolutionary A.C. with an auto sweep mechanism. For uniform cooling and even temperature distribution.

INBUILT SILENCE: IT SPEAKS VOLUMES

Witness smooth and silent perfection at work. Breaking convention, New Lloyd Platinum introduces the unique horizontal air flow system. The result—diminished metal to metal contact. And near-negligible noise levels.

MAINTENANCE: WITH ADDED PERKS

A wondrous world of centralised circuitry, modular design and imaginative fittings. No removing the front grill to clean the dust filter. Instead, just slide the filter out, wash it, and slide it back.



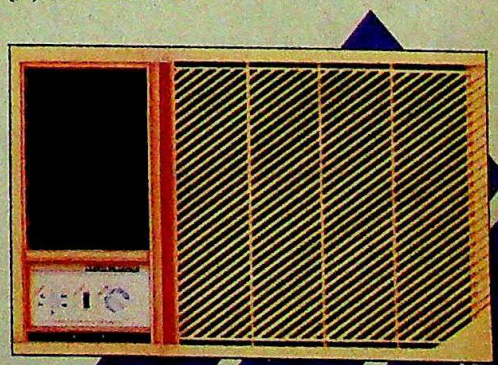
Horizontal air flow syste

For overall cleaning, the front grill is push fitted for snug seating and easy detachability. Add to this, the impeccable Platinum Service—equipped with technical support and logistics, to quickly rectify the merest flaw.

And the sound reassurance of Fedders Lloyd, people who know cooling best.

New Lloyd Platinum. It defies convention, to define a new generation in air conditioning.

Available in 1, 1.5, and 2 tonnes. In wood grain, dark brown, silver grey and almond colour.



FIRST 500 OFFER

Additional 3 years warranty on the first 500 A.Cs purchased.

LLOYD PLATINU

THE NEXT GENERATION AIR CONDITIONE

Fedders Lloyd Corpn. Ltd., Punj House, M-13A, Connaught Place, New Delhi 110001. Branches & Offices: □ New Delhi, 159, Okhla Industrial Estate, New Delhi 110020. Tel: 6835481. □ Ahmedabad Tel: 449283 □ Bangalore Tel: 36 □ Bhopal Tel: 546393 □ Bhubaneshwar Tel: 50487 □ Bombay Tel: 4302874 □ Calcutta Tel: 299742 □ Chandigarh Tel: 41254 □ Cochin Tel: 363739 □ Faridabad: B-209-210, Nehru Ground, N.I.T., Faridabad □ Ghaziabad Tel: 8710 Goa: 3/4 Martinas, Near Chiclaim Church, Chiclaim P.O. Vasco-GOA. □ Guwahati Tel: 83517 □ Hyderabad Tel: 223036 □ Jaipur Tel: 74913 □ Lucknow Tel: 72778 □ Madras Tel: 470577 □ Patna Tel: 34393 □ Pondicherry Tel: 280

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Gurukul Kangri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

For every autumn and
winter ...

A man with spring
in his heart.

Fabric
Silver Oak
Blend
Extra fine Merino Wool
+ Polyester
Season
All year round
Occasion
Whenever you need to make
a subtle impression

Silver Oak

Raymond's

The Final Word.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Swissair Customer Portrait: Harry Singh and family, Industrialist.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

For the holidaying Singhs, Swissair's excursion fare is just the ticket for a joy ride. When Harry Singh plans his family vacation, Swissair gets it off to a flying start. At an affordable fare, the Singhs are pampered in true Swissair style. With hot meals served on real china with real cutlery, a wide selection of beverages, a variety of magazines and newspapers as well as 8-channel stereo entertainment from classical to jazz to pop. So whether you're going to Europe or the Far East, Swissair's excursion fare, as Harry Singh and family would tell you, is just the right beginning for a memorable vacation.

For details call your IATA travel agent or the nearest Swissair office:
AHMEDABAD 449139 • BANGALORE 211983 • BOMBAY 2872210 • CALCUTTA 441643 • COCHIN 360380 • DELHI 3325511 • HYDERABAD 211144 • KATHMANDU 222452 • MADRAS 86158

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

A Time for Togetherness

THERE'S a time for politics. And there's a time for sobriety and reflection—when partisan craft, one-upmanship, and manipulation of public opinion for political advantage must remain leashed to the pillars of national interest. That time is now. The morning newspaper headlines have become a distressing metronome tap-tapping into the country's collective consciousness, the prolonged season of turbulence besetting this nation. There can be little doubt that this is perhaps the most critical time facing India since Independence, a time that will test not only her leaders, but also her national resolve.

It's bad enough that arson, terrorism, separatist violence and international threats have begun to tug ferociously at the very innards of this country. What is disgraceful is that the Indian politician—that incorrigible pettifogger—refuses to rise above his sickening penchant for turf battles and political punksterism. In the pursuit of power, he takes advantage of national problems the way an external enemy would. For him, the nation's woes mean simply a fresh scent of political blood. And as he gnaws away at his opponents he seems not to care a whit that in the process he is eating into the flesh of his country.

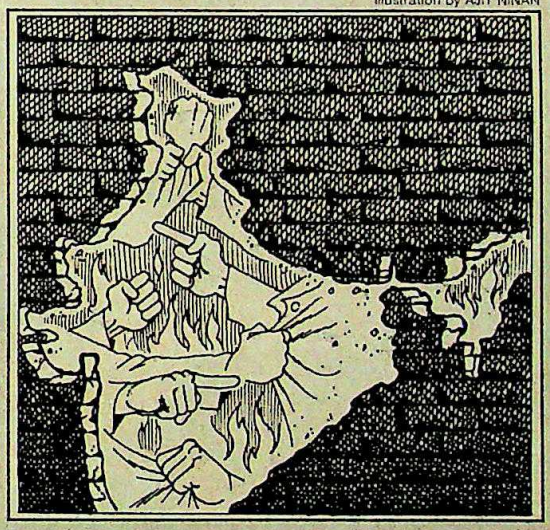
Blame-letting and political blood-letting at a time when the country desperately needs a resolute and disinterested togetherness is not leadership. It is rabble-rousing. The national and state elections are now over. There are new governments everywhere. But yet political parties—not excluding the ruling one—continue to behave as if they are still girding for some imaginary poll which they will win by blaming the troubles erupting across the land on their opponents. This is nothing but the crudest and crassest form of national exploitation.

And nowhere is this more brazenly evident than in Parliament where debates on the crises gripping Kashmir, Punjab, Andhra Pradesh or Assam have degenerated into arguments about which party bears the major responsibility for the worsening chaos rather than rising to a level from which methods of tackling the problems—if not solutions to them—can emerge. What purpose, for example, can possibly now be served by the Government's continuous harping on the theme that the Punjab and Kashmir upheavals are the creations of Rajiv Gandhi's Congress(I) when what the country needs immediately is not a history lesson but decisive, ameliorative action? No matter what the sins of the previous government, in Assam, in Punjab, in Kashmir, the terror gripping these regions is not going to disappear through mutual finger-pointing. This politics-as-usual approach will not help rally a politics-weary people behind the Government. It will simply add to their cynicism while the problems continue to mount on the ground.

Much has been written about the current crisis in Kashmir. Yet, what is really tragic is that Indian politicians still prefer to look at Kashmir from atop their own private castles—seeing only its political fallout for the Left, the BJP, the Muslim "vote bank" of the Congress(I) and the Janata Dal—when they should rather be looking at the latent challenges posed by the fundamentalist movement to India's very survival as a secular entity.

AND even as Pakistan makes belligerent noises from across the border and Vishwanath Pratap Singh waffles between whether India should be logistically or "psychologically" prepared for war, the Congress(I), hitherto critical of the Government for being too soft and weak, suddenly accuses the prime minister of creating "war hysteria".

Illustration by AJIT NINAN



In Punjab, too, the Government's position is unenviable. It started by holding out hope for a political solution (which incidentally was the Congress(I)'s professed aim before it was thrown out of power), but succumbed to the BJP's pressure not to hold elections. Now the same party that condemns the "war hysteria" rushes in with a white paper on Punjab saying that the Government's "inaction, ineptitude and pusillanimity" are appeasing forces that seek the dismemberment of India "in collaboration with foreign forces".

It is politics again that bedevils the handling of the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA) agitation that has so far killed 91 persons. The Assam Government so far has proved incapable of dealing with this new "liberation" movement either through sheer ineptitude or because the Centre has been unable to evolve a clear, anti-insurgency strategy and goad the ruling AGP—a partner in the National Front Government—into action. So, enter politics. The Congress(I) is simply gloating at one more opportunity to go for the political jugular. Its propaganda brigades have been spreading the word that the AGP cannot act because the ULFA has close links with powerful members of the AGP and the All Assam Students Union. And the Centre dares not make the AGP Government act because it does not wish to rock the National Front applecart.

The whole crisis is not just one of central indecision or weakness or the elusive consensus that V.P. Singh so thirsts for. In the minds of the Indian people, there is already a national consensus—the common wisdom that the problems now gripping their country are everybody's problems and that they will stand united behind any leader who handles them with toughness, honesty and sensitivity. The real crisis is that politicians have been unable to rise above their dwarfish selves. The boys have become neither men nor statesmen. And little do they realise that when they go for the political jugular it is the nation's life-blood they are draining.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THOSE WERE THE TIMES

FOR LONG CHATS AND MEANINGFUL GLANCES

DAYS WHEN LIFE WAS UNHURRIED

AND LIVING WAS GRACIOUS

FOR LADIES

• *The Benaras, Satya Paul, The Indus & Neo-Classique: SARIÉS*

• *Kin Khaab: SILKS* • *Rabia: DRESS FABRICS* • *Florence & Autumn Leaf: SUITS*

• *Symphony: MIX & MATCH* • *Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Cashmere: SHAWLS*

Satish Sud Graphics/2

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HANDLOOM EMPORIUM RECREATES
THE BYGONE ERA OF LEISURED LIVING
IN ITS REDESIGNED SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT WITH
THE FINEST LINE OF MERCHANDISING
IN FABRICS, SARIÉS AND READY TO WEAR CLOTHES
DESIGNED & PRODUCED
BY THE MOST REPUTED NAMES
IN THE COUNTRY
TO THE EXACTING STANDARDS OF
HERITAGE

HERITAGE™
AT
handloom emporium

G-XII HANDLOOM EMPORIUM MANOR
SHOPPING PLAZA SOUTH EXTENSION-I NEW DELHI-110 049 INDIA
TLFN: (011) 62-3208, 61-7050, 62-5099

FOR GENTS

• *Van Gogh: SUITINGS* • *Michelangelo: READYMADES* • *Here & Now: ACCESSORIES*
• *Cézanne: JACKETS & TROUSERS* • *Exclusif Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Marcopolo: GIFTABLES*

FOR CHILDREN

• *Roots: READY TO WEAR*

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Holding Hands

● Embarrassing handshakes seem to have become *de rigueur* for Rajiv Gandhi ever since he lost the prime ministership following his party's electoral Waterloo last November. The first episode occurred soon after his defeat during Vishwanath Pratap

Singh's swearing-in ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan when his son Ajeya, the subject of the St Kitts dirty tricks campaign, loudly introduced himself, hand extended, to an unsuspecting Rajiv.

The saga continued last fortnight but with a new character, Simranjit Singh Mann. Rajiv and Mann found themselves under the same roof for the first time since Mann's release from detention. This time it was Rajiv who surprised onlookers by grabbing Mann by the hand. Most of the photographers present did not even have the presence of mind to start clicking. So they asked for an encore. But an angry Mann shot back: "I am not his follower, let him come here and join me for the photograph."

This time Rajiv balked. So what on earth had come over him just a few minutes earlier? A bystander who had witnessed the whole scene from close up explained, charitably: Rajiv had mistaken Mann, with his spectacles and flowing salt-and-pepper beard, for Prakash Singh Badal.

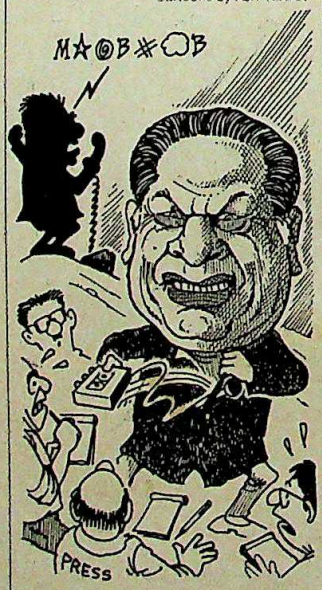
Interview Phobia

● The cumulative impact of Chandra Shekhar's apocalyptic interview in the *Illustrated Weekly* and Arun Shourie's verbatim reproduction of a conversation with Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal is already being felt in the capital's political circles. Politicians, believe it or not, are trying to be less garrulous and watching closely what they say to the press.

Parliament's Central Hall now no longer rings with the easy banter laced with the choice, intemperate phrases that politicians loved to use not so long ago.

Even the easygoing Vasant Sathe has been afflicted. Always a favourite with journalists because of his colourful expressions, the irrepressible Congress(I) leader is now being uncharacteristi-

Cartoons by AJIT NINAN



cally cautious during interviews. Last fortnight, when a journalist went to meet Sathe, he saw Sathe sitting with a tape-recorder, at the ready, on his table. And before Sathe even opened his mouth to utter a greeting, he made a deliberate point of switching the tape on.

Royal Shoot

● Power, obviously, has nothing to do with royalty. A politician out of power can certainly continue to be a maharaja. So, notwithstanding the annexation of his vast railway empire by an anarchical socialist by the name of George Fernandes, Madhavrao Scin-

dia, the quintessential 20th century maharaja, was in full regal plumage recently.

What made the erstwhile maharaja give up his customary kurta pajama? The occasion was a photosession with a celebrated Japanese photographer who is putting together a book on Indian royalty. Expectedly, the grand Jaivilas palace in Gwalior is to feature prominently in it. And since no palace is complete without its maharaja, Scindia had to deck himself up and say cheese.

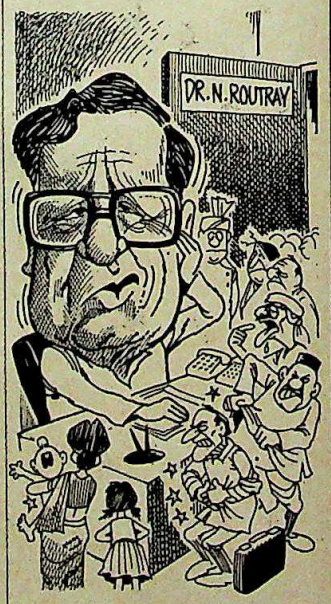
By all accounts, he did not need a great deal of persuasion. And perhaps with good reason. The last time Scindia appeared in full regalia was at the talk-of-the-country wedding of his daughter to Karan Singh's son, way back in the halcyon days of power. The recent session with the Japanese lensman may very well be Scindia's last chance to lord it over the palace in regal splendour, considering the fact that his estranged mother, Vijayaraje Scindia, has now started a new battle to evict her son and his retinue from the palace.

Clinical Error

● Health Minister Nilamani Routray must have known that when he took up his cabinet post he would have more than his share of pen-pushing and paperwork in that mammoth ministry that touches the life of virtually every citizen. But he could hardly have suspected that he would also be called upon to play the role of physician.

He has discovered, somewhat to his amusement, that not all citizens fully understand that a health minister's main task is to oversee the working of government clinics, family planning schemes, nutrition programmes, and immunisation campaigns.

Many of the visitors who come calling at his office door are under the impression that Routray is the head doctor sahib of the country. So, on



any given day Routray is accosted by people asking him to minister to and write prescriptions for colds, coughs, dyspepsia and fevers. His personal assistant now has to busy himself screening visitors, explaining patiently that the North Block waiting room is not an out-patient clinic.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Don Juan

PREMIUM COLLECTION

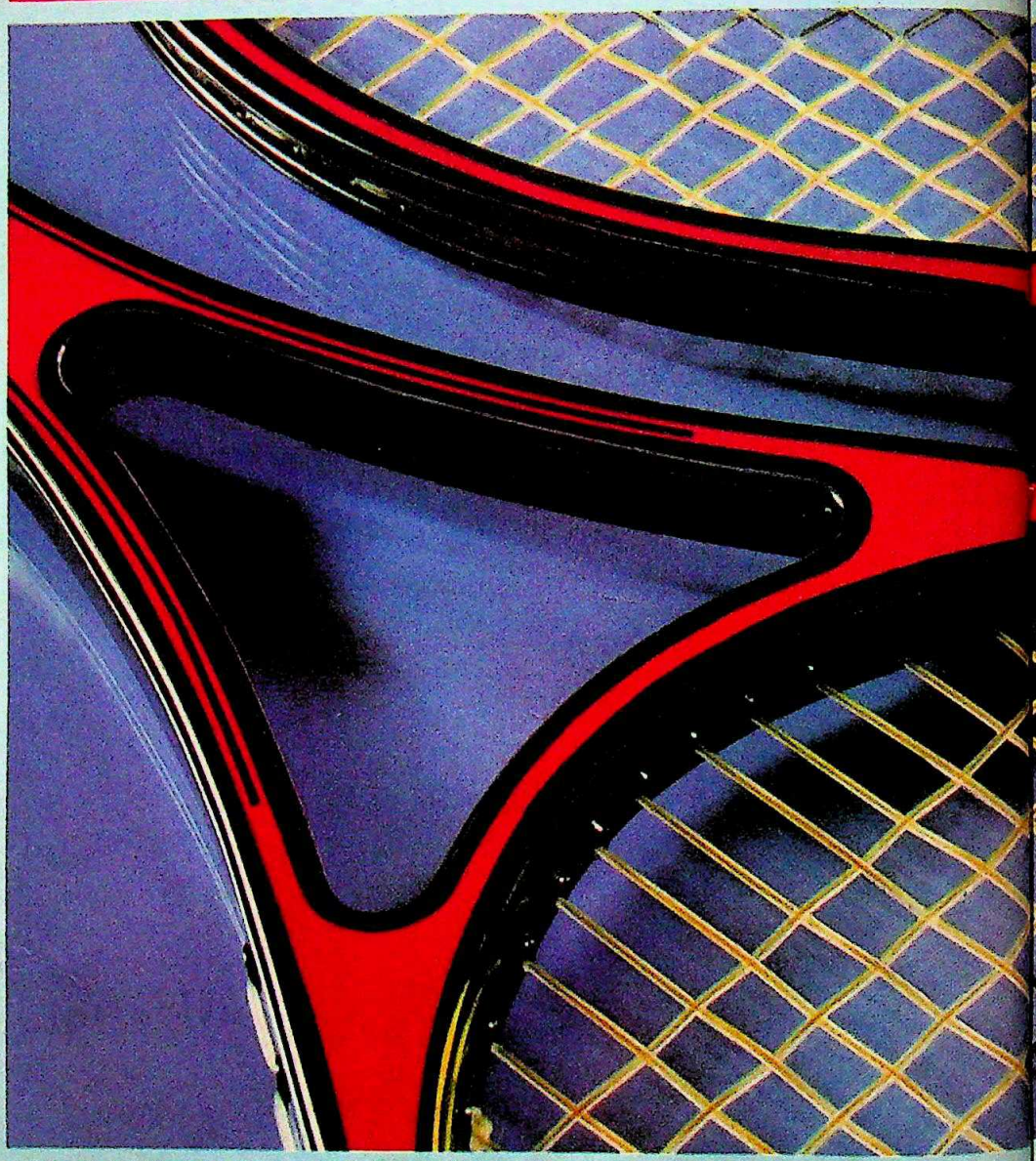
BECAUSE LIFE IS AN ENDLESS ROMANCE.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

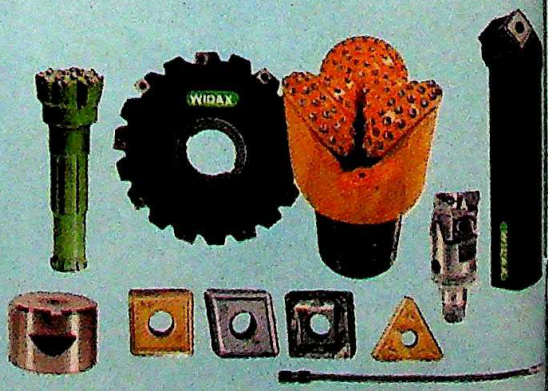
DISTINCT, AS YOU ARE.

GRAVIERA SUITING GR

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



SERVICE THAT SCORES ON EVERY POINT

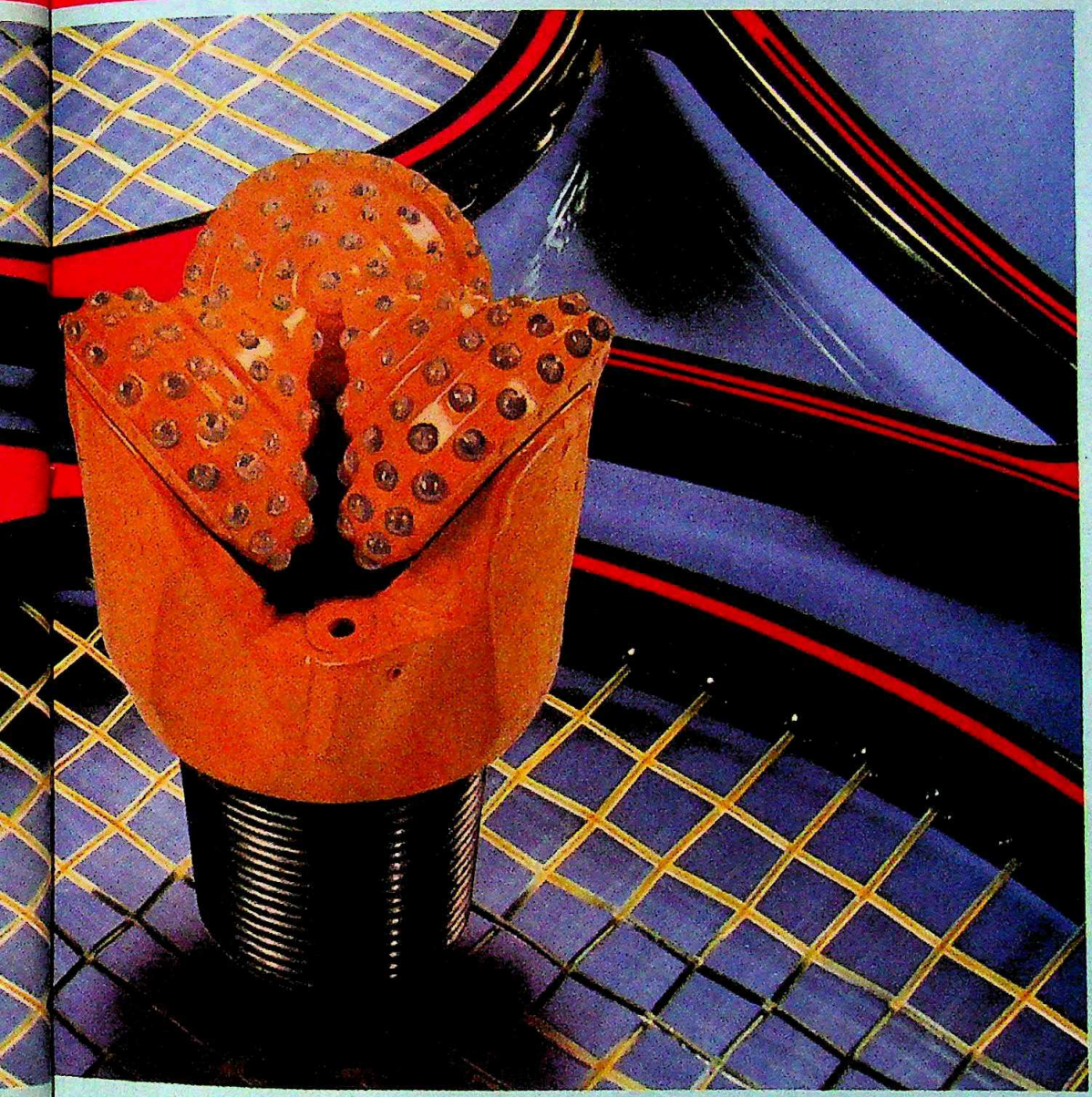


WIDIA
Your productivity – Our concern

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WIDIA



THAT'S WIDIA'S WINNING ADVANTAGE

Widia. Close to customers. In every way. At every stage. Quickly responding to every need. Ensuring total satisfaction. Through its high flexibility to meet changing demands. And effective problem-solving capabilities.

The customer is the nucleus of all activities. That is Widia's philosophy. Which has grown in quality over time. And is reflected in its excellent HRD: acquiring and nurturing the best, in order to give the best.

Making Widia a true leader.

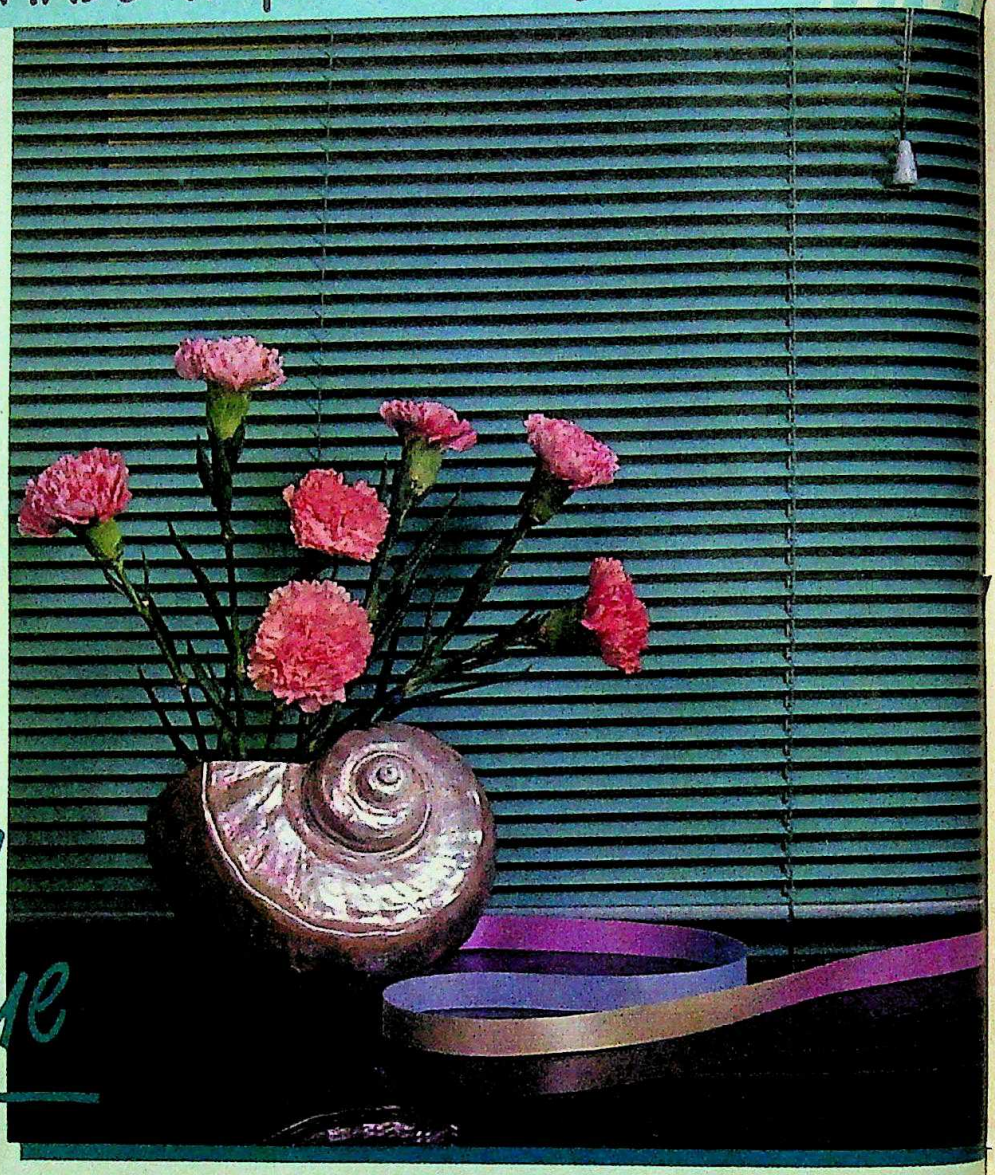
Widia's unstinted customer service scores on every point. Making winners of all its customers.

R.K.SWAMY/WIL/4865 A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WINDOW FASHION 90'S



Venetian Mystique

Here it is.

Vista Levolor, the 90's window fashion.

Vista Levolor accents your windows and shows them at their best. With the latest trends, largest choice and imported mechanisms.

Vista Levolor Venetian Blinds offer easy control of light and privacy. In collaboration with Levolor Inc. U.S.A., Vista presents a quality range of 85 dramatic colours, in 15mm and 25mm widths.

Other Window Fashion Ideas:
Vista Levolor Vertical Blinds: Elegant and convenient. Only Vista Levolor offers you louvres in 2", 3", 4" and 5" widths.

Vista Levolor Drapery Rods: Sleek. In 20 colours to make over 200 combinations.

Vista LEVOLOR

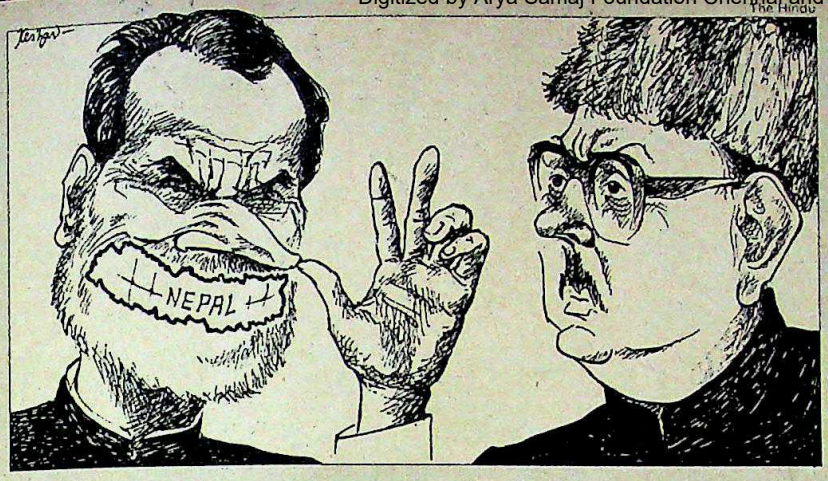
New Ideas in Window Fashion.

We'll come across to install your window dressing anytime, day or night. Just call us. In the meantime, write to us for a free booklet on ***Window Fashion-90's.***

roduct by **Alps Textiles Pvt. Ltd. H.O.:** B/4, D-3, Shopping-Cum-Facility Centre, Alaknanda, N. Delhi-19. Ph: 6412576, 6413216. Fax: 8732627. Telex: 0592-217. **Bombay Off.:** 29-30, Vaswani Mansi
isha Wacha Road, Bombay-20. Ph: 221784, 221697.

lers Phone Nos.: Agra: Suman Arts-62973 pp. **Ahmedabad:** Windoor Mktg-442180. **Bangalore:** Featherlite Collection-234009, Girdhar Baldev & Co.-211343, 215609. **Bombay:** Modele Collection-5114500. **Calcutta:**
d Jobs-448404, 444206. **Calicut:** Galaxy Business Systems-64100, 52600. **Chandigarh:** Comfit Mktg-43303. **Cochin:** Skyline Systems-369827. **Coimbatore:** Electro-Diesel-43595. **Dehradun:** Abhinandan Interiors-26146. **Delhi**
or & Furnishing-5738138, Jagdish Store-6843206, Puneet Enterprises-675568. **Ghaziabad:** Glass Decor-8711254. **Gauhati:** N.N.Traders-Supobha Market, A.T. Road. **Hyderabad:** Window Shades.-3-83/E Kukatpally. **Indore**
me Decor-35833. **Jaipur:** Interior India-49646. **Jamshedpur:** Fourbro Enterprises-0657-25155. **Lucknow:** Furnishing House-242283, 33164. **Ludhiana:** Reynauld-28066, Vaneet Sales-24115. **Madras:** Arvee & Co.- 453125, 475
na Decor-428199, 428250. **Mangalore:** Teekays Mktg-26564. **Mysore:** Darla Sales-31473. **Nagpur:** Nagpur Aluminium-46913. **Pune:** Super Decor-446019, 444573. **Rajkot:** Aavaran-44856. **Secunderabad:** Home Decor-823
DEALERS ENQUIRIES SOLICIT

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



• *Those who talk of a 1,000-year war should see whether they will last a 1,000-hour war.* ■ V.P. SINGH, reacting to Benazir Bhutto's statement about a 1,000-year war, in the Lok Sabha

• *The 64th Amendment has given the militants exactly what they wanted—no elections—on a platter.* ■ SIMRANJIT SINGH MANN in *Sunday*

• *I wish the Punjab problem was more directly in my hands. I have the arrogance to think that I would have sorted it out by now.* ■ RAM JETHMALANI in *Sunday*

• *The solution to the Punjab problem has to be within the framework of the Indian Constitution sooner or later. The Punjab terrorists are indulging in a futile exercise as they cannot beat the paramilitary forces or the Indian Army.* ■ LALDENGA, president of the Mizo National Front

• *We will chop off the finger which anybody points at us, we will take out the eye if anybody gives us ferocious looks, any hand which will come towards us will be amputated and anybody trying to harass the underprivileged will be set right.* ■ OM PRAKASH CHAUTALA in Meham

• *Am I a* TV *tiger, am I a paper panther? Woh (Rajiv) to* TV *ke sahare hee jeeta tha (He depended on* TV *for his survival).* ■ DEVI LAL in *The Telegraph*

• *None of my family members will indulge in misusing my position. If they do, the situation will lead to either they or I remaining alive.* ■ M. KARUNANIDHI in the Tamil Nadu Assembly

• *My position as a minister in the Central Cabinet today is a political* bhiksha *(gift) from N.T. Rama Rao.* ■ P. UPENDRA, minister for information and broadcasting, quoted in *The Illustrated Weekly of India*

• *The press goes against me and my ministers when journalists' requests for favours are not granted.* ■ PRAFULLA KUMAR MAHANTA in the Assam Assembly

• *Freedom of the press is being suppressed by G. Kasturi.* ■ N. RAM, associate editor of *The Hindu* in a complaint to the Press Council of India against his editor

• *Marriage is going to change me. I'm going to be a different guy: lean and hungry.* ■ RAVI SHASTRI in *Sportsworld*

• *What will I do with a Padmashree? If my wife permits, I'd be happy to have a Jayshree, Manjushree or Bhagyashree.* ■ SHATRUGHAN SINHA in *Filmfare*

Moving ? New Address ?

Don't miss out on your subscriber copies of *INDIA TODAY* — just because you've moved to a new address. Help us to reach your copy to you — without a break — by filling in the coupon below and sending it to us at least six weeks before you move.

Mail to :
Subscriber Service Cell
Living Media India Ltd.
P.O. Box 706
Faridabad 121 007

Non-Stop Delivery Coupon

My name: _____

_____

(Block letters)

My subscription no. _____

_____

My present address _____

_____

_____

_____ Pin: _____

My new address: _____

_____

_____

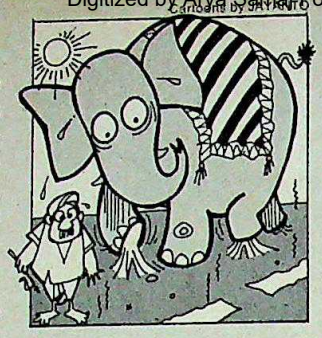
_____ Pin: _____

O&M/696

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

STICKY PROBLEM



■ If Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests Maneka Gandhi successfully pleaded for the life of a monkey called Ganesan awaiting the death sentence in a police station in Trivandrum, another Ganesan in Trivandrum, appropriately an elephant, had to be lifted out of trouble by his mahout.

Ganesan was on one of his leisurely jaunts along the city roads on a blistering afternoon, when the mahout noticed that the elephant had slowed down and was finding it difficult to walk.

The reason was soon obvious. Tar on the road, melting in the heat, had got stuck under Ganesan's heavy feet making it difficult for him to move. The mahout then found a knife and carefully sliced away the tar from under each of the four gigantic feet before Ganesan could continue on his journey. The incident has further tarred the already sullied image of the PWD which has an elephant-like pace when it comes to surfacing roads.

BALLOONING BELIEFS

■ It was a hydrogen-filled balloon meant to study the rarefied gases in the atmosphere during the course of a day and was launched from Hyderabad under the supervision of German meteorologists. Finding a place along with the 20-kilogram payload was a portrait of Lord Ganesa. The portrait of the lord, on which a pretty amount of money was spent, was expected to protect the scientific gizmos from heavenly retribution as the balloon roamed amid the clouds collecting data.

The portrait served its purpose. At the end of the day the balloon was destroyed by remote control and the equipment on board recovered from a field 30 km from Hyderabad. But not the portrait. The German scientists feel that a villager must have preferred to take away the god and leave the gadgets behind. Other scientists, however, feel that such acts will only help in the ballooning of superstition which, anyway, is nothing but hot air.

WARRING WOMEN

■ What does it take to egg on a militant feminist organisation? Just a group of harassed husbands. Especially if the example set by this feminist group in Nagpur is any indication.

Confronted by a conference of harassed husbands, gathered under the banner of the Akhil Bharatiya Patni Atyachar Virodhi Morcha, irate members of the second sex hit back. Crying war at the men who were protesting the atrocities committed by their wives, the women warriors launched a blitzkrieg with rotten eggs, tomatoes and watermelons.

Trouble began when one of the organisers urged the men of the world to unite as they had nothing to lose but their wives. The clearly unamused women immediately torpedoed the gathering with their smelly armoury, making the group flee. One of the leaders of the male group, who stayed back, commented that the whole episode stank of feminine spite and jealousy.

SIMIAN RIDER

■ Hitch-hiking is probably the most popular form of commuting in Europe. And now it seems like the trend is catching on in India too. But with a tiny difference. While it is human beings who generally hitchhike, a hitchhiker in Khirkiya, Madhya Pradesh, is none other than a little monkey.

Many pedestrians on the town's dusty and crowded streets have of late noticed an unusual pillion rider accompanying cyclists, seated on the carrier. Curiously, the cyclists themselves have remained unaware of the simian hitching a ride with them till passers-by pointed it out to them.

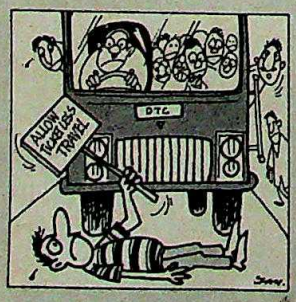
So, where does this little hitchhiker go piggy-backing on a cycle carrier? Probably to a barber- shop nearby where people have often seen him aping the other customers, vainly brushing his fur and even preening himself before a mirror.

TICKETLESS TRAVEL

■ Going by the way the capital's bus drivers go about their jobs, one would have imagined that they wilfully run over anything that comes in their way—be it a stone or a human being. But apparently not.

Recently when a young man, strapped for cash, clung to the front portion of the bus, saying that it would have to drive over him if he wasn't allowed to travel ticketless, the driver was in quite a dilemma. Though the driver initially clung to his stand of disallowing any ticketless travellers, eventually he had to give in. And the youth was finally able to carry on his journey, reclining on a seat without a ticket.

Those who steer the Delhi Transport Corporation, however, feel that such incidents will only encourage others to travel ticketless. And that the place for those with a humane heart is not in the driver's seat of a DTC bus.



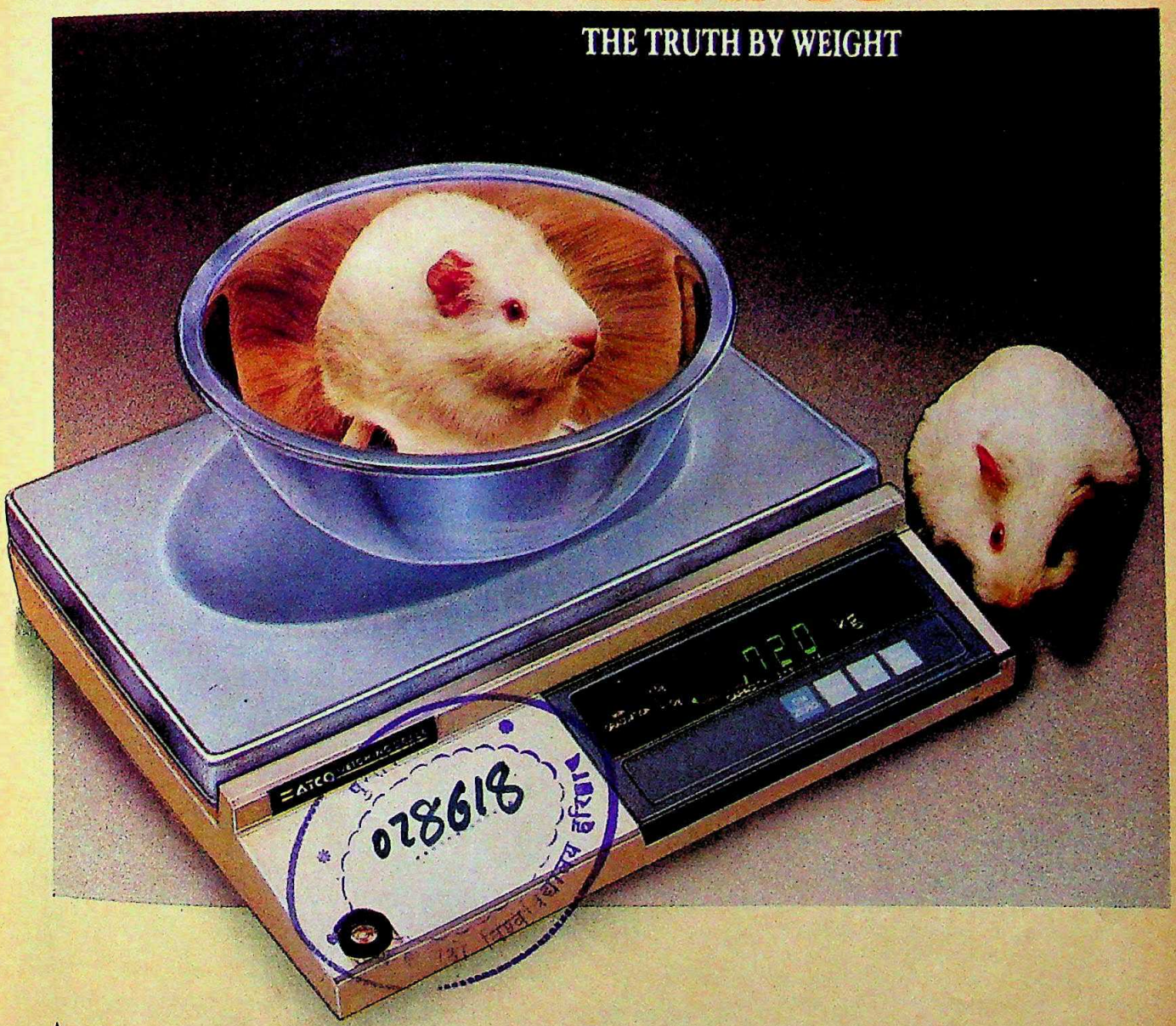
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

For the potential to weigh as much as 60 tons to the possibility of weighing 0.01 mg, organisations like B.A.R.C., Bajaj, Cadburys, Cipla, Colgate, Dr. Beck, Glaxo, Godrej, L&T, Parle, Reserve Bank, Tata, Tribhuvandas Bhimji Zaveri ... depend on

ATCO®

THE TRUTH BY WEIGHT



ATCO INDUSTRIES LIMITED

ENGINEERING ◻ ELECTRONIC WEIGHING ◻ INSTRUMENTATION

HEAD OFFICE: 6A, Lalwani Industrial Estate, 14, G.D. Ambekar Road, Wadala, Bombay - 400 031. ✆ 4121295 ◻ 4121298 ◻ 4121982 ◻ 4122258
Telex: 011 - 73944 ATCO IN ◻ Fax: 022 4140250

BRANCHES: B-5/158 Safdarjung Enclave, 1st Floor, NEW DELHI-110 029 ✆ 608749 ■ 41, T. Nagar, Ramanathapuram, COIMBATORE-641 045 ■ No. 45, I Main Road, C.I.T. Nagar, Nandanam, MADRAS - 600 035. ✆ 455912 ◻ 456205, ◻ 451986

SALES & SERVICE: ■ NEW DELHI: Avro Sales Pvt. Ltd. ✆ 3319010 ◻ 3318814 ■ Consolidated Machines P. Ltd. ✆ 6832636 ◻ 6843694 ■ CHANDIGARH: Arya Associates ✆ 40827 ■ INDORE: Instrumentation Engineers ✆ 39640 ■ BARODA: Pegasus Marketing Inc ✆ 558857 ■ AHMEDABAD: K.G.S. Marketing & Services ✆ 491199 ■ NAGPUR: Monaco Marketing Enterprises ✆ 244224, 2322 ■ Section Tax Premises Marketing ✆ 445803 ■ K.S. Enterprises ✆ 260300 ◻ 273864

CC-0. Panini Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Collection. Haridwar

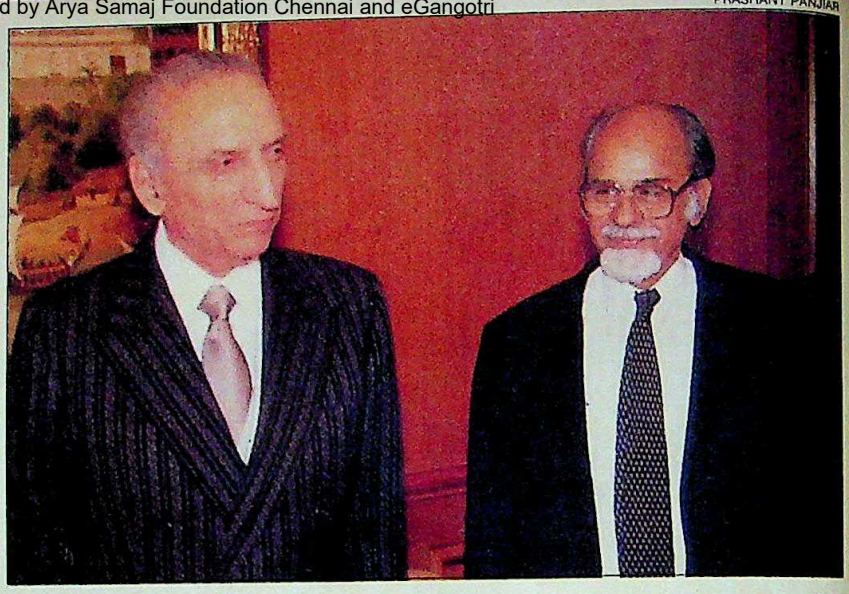
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA-PAKISTAN

Turning Down the Heat

The two neighbours agree to a round of negotiations

PRASHANT PANJIAR



Taking advantage of the respite, the superpowers brokered a meeting between foreign ministers Inder Kumar Gujral and Sahibzada Yaqub Khan

FOR some time last fortnight, the scene seemed to be straight out of a *dangal* (wrestling match) at a rural fair on either side of the subcontinental rift. The two grapplers prance menacingly around the *akhara*, flexing muscles and slapping thighs as the crowd whips itself into a frenzy led by a clutch of drummers from both sides. But just when a showdown seems imminent comes a moment of respite and self-questioning.

In the Indo-Pakistan *akhara* too, it was something of an anticlimax last fortnight. Suddenly, just when the war-cries had built up to a dangerous crescendo came a pause, as if the prizefighters were punch-drunk even before the bout had begun. Instead of the generals of the two armies grappling on the battlefield, the denizens of the subcontinent watched in relief as the foreign ministers of India and Pakistan, I.K. Gujral and Sahibzada Yaqub Khan, old personal friends, headed for New York for a round of negotiations. "When the whole world is making war an outdated concept, it will be so wrong for the subcontinent to have a war," said Gujral on the eve of his departure. "The main challenge before the two nations today is how to avoid war," echoed Benazir Bhutto at the other end.

But taking the cue from the rhetoric, the two military machines, ever in a state of semi-alert, were already moving towards the borders *(see box)*. There were even minor clashes, and as soldiers came muzzle-to-muzzle along the borders, the situation seemed ominous.

Now in the midst of their pious pronouncements of peace, the two sides were not saying what had brought about such an abrupt change in mood. Throughout the fortnight, as the war rhetoric mounted on both sides, there had been unprecedented diplomatic activity in New Delhi, Islamabad and in several foreign capitals to prevent a war that, to quote a Delhi-based western diplomat, "would be the ultimate obscenity in the post-Berlin Wall world". The Soviets, the Chinese and the Americans had all put their might behind peace efforts though none as stridently and overtly as the Americans.

Following up intense diplomatic pressure from officials and Congressmen, even the US ambassadors in New Delhi and Islamabad did *de marches* (diplomatese for expression of concern) on the two prime ministers, to convey their government's suggestions to defuse the crisis. The US diplomats travelled along the length of the sensitive border on either side. American satellites too were hovering over the region, picking out the so-far encouraging signals that troop movements on both sides were basically defensive.

India draws some solace from the fact that its diplomatic drive in the Islamic world has been fairly successful so far. Energy and Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammed Khan and Congress(I) leader Najma Heptulla have been conducting quiet diplomacy for some time and have more than matched Pakistani efforts. Saudi Arabia presents a different problem as it competes with Iran for the leadership

AJIT NINAN

Just when its diplomacy is succeeding in Europe and the Islamic world the US does not want to be distracted by a conflict in South Asia.

The Soviets back India but are doing their utmost to avoid a war between India and Pakistan in which they will be forced to come out openly in support of one side.

Harassed by Muslim resurgence in the Sinkiang province and worried about happenings in Tibet, the last thing the Chinese want to hear is the *jehad* war-cry in Kashmir.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

of the Islamic world and Teheran has already come out clearly in Pakistan's support. Last fortnight, however, the External Affairs Ministry was gloating over the fact that even Teheran had renewed contacts with India and written that its foreign minister wanted to visit Delhi.

In New Delhi and Moscow, the Soviets were conveying to India that the last thing they wanted was a war in which they would be forced to take sides. "Yes, the superpowers are trying to prevent war. We have told them we are not riding a warhorse as yet. We haven't even fixed the stirrups," Gujral told INDIA TODAY.

IF despite the red-hot rhetoric—Benazir's talk of a thousand-year-war and V.P. Singh's taunt that Pakistan wouldn't last a thousand hours—the two sides were still talking instead of fighting, it was a tribute to international pressures rather than to any statesmanship by either of the two neighbours. For more than a week after her thousand-year-war speech in Larkana, Benazir had kept quiet and V.P. Singh too had backtracked on his call to the nation to prepare psychologically for an escalated war. The US and Soviet foreign ministers had discussed the issue at their recent meeting and found unanimity on preventing a conflict.

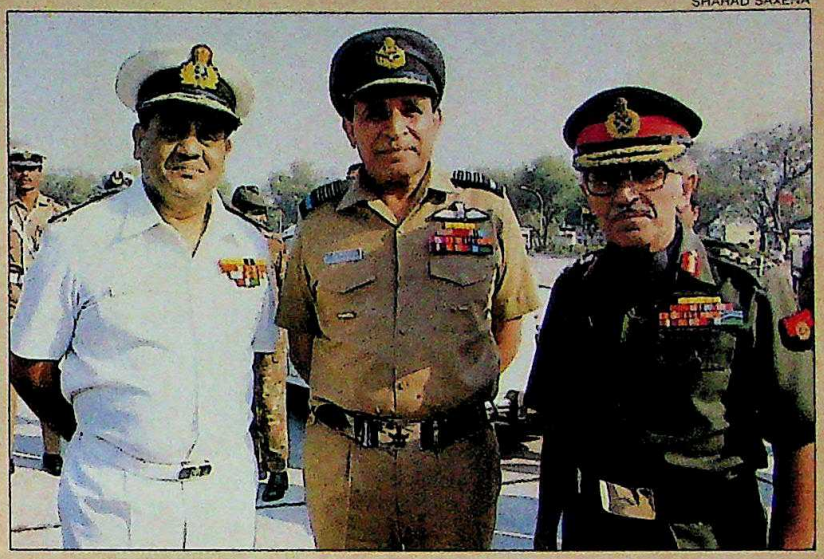
Some in South Block were inclined to compare the current scenario with 1965 when the superpowers took more or less equidistant positions from the subcontinental tensions. Later it was the Soviets who prevailed upon India to sign the Tashkent agreement.

But there are some differences from the 1965 situation, most significantly in the attitude of the Chinese. The wars in 1965 and 1971 were marked by aggressive posturing by the Chinese. Today India believes that even in the case of an all-out Indo-Pak conflict, the Chinese will stay out and at best try to play a peacemaker's role. At worst the Chinese would impose limits on an Indian advance into occupied Kashmir if it threatened the Karakoram highway.

The reason for the change in Chinese hearts is easy to see. Senior officials of the External Affairs Ministry say that the Chinese, still recovering from the tremors of Tiananmen, have been further chastened by the successful popular upheaval in Nepal which could radiate some influence northwards into Tibet. Further, they have been shaken by the growth of militant Islam in Sinkiang where rioting over the past month has claimed at least 60 lives. The last thing the Chinese want now is the victory of an Islamic fundamentalist movement in adjoining Kashmir.

During the Chinese foreign minister's

SHARAD SAXENA



India's service chiefs: gearing up

ARMED FORCES

On the Alert

ALL the vital signs are still missing. No trains have been cancelled, there is no large-scale cancellation of leave save that of certain specialised categories, no reserves have been called. Yet, beneath the surface the signals are unmistakable: Indian and Pakistani forces are preparing for a possible war.

Military movements in Pakistan have been more overt. On the Indian side too, there have been movements along the borders. "Basically neither the Indian nor the Pakistani GHQs (general headquarters) have received a clear signal from their political leaders that they want war. So both are moving into defensive postures," said a senior Indian general.

Consequently, Pakistan has, over the past fortnight, busied itself reinforcing defensive structures along the Punjab, Rajasthan and Gujarat borders. India has responded in the same manner. Unlike in the past, a defensive posture now does not require India to make large-scale moves from cantonments far from the borders. The troops for the defence of Amritsar, Ferozepore, Pathankot or Fazilka, for example, are stationed in cantonments situated either in these cities or close to them.

Neither India nor Pakistan has as yet moved its strike force. The only visible escalation in military activity is in Kashmir. Pakistani air activity there has increased a great deal. On the Indian side, an unprecedented mine-laying operation is believed to be going on, not so much to stop a Pakistani attack as to prevent infiltration of Pak-trained militants.

Indian units have been instructed to stock up ammunition and vital spare parts. A buying spree is on and army workshops are working overtime to repair equipment. The air force and the navy too are getting into shape. Some concern has been voiced about the air force's lack of certain elements of electronic warfare, and remedial measures are being taken. Politically, the Government has taken note of the forces' apprehensions about the Islamic world's getting involved in an Indo-Pak war. "If the Saudis transferred a couple of Hawk-eyes to Pakistan, or three squadrons of F-5s, or six batteries of HAWK missiles, the equation could become a lot more even," said a senior defence official.

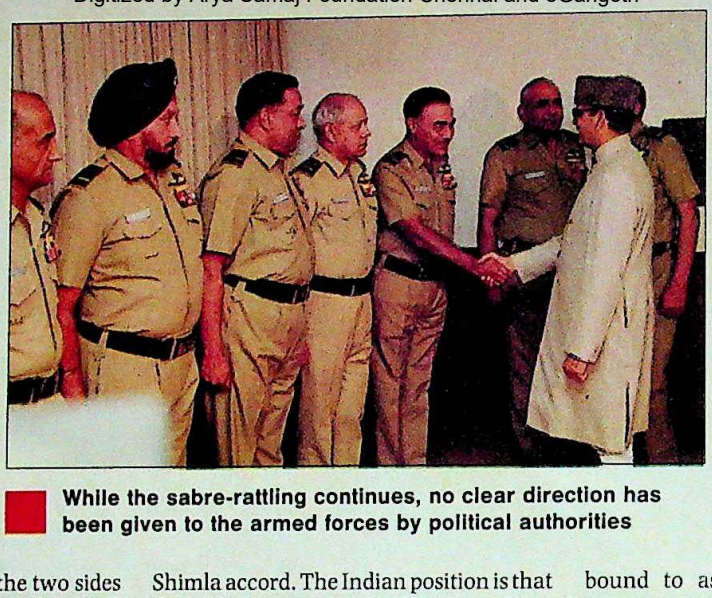
The problem according to top Indian officials—and they suspect it is true of the other side as well—is that the military is acting without any clear political direction. This causes a greater problem in India where the forces work under political direction unlike in Pakistan where they continue to function on their own. Senior generals concede that Indian commanders are basically reacting to newspaper reports to take precautionary steps and make their own estimate of what lies ahead. In short, the forces may not be arrayed for war but the movement is distinctly towards battle-stations.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

recent visit to New Delhi, the Indian side was quick to point out that the growth of revolutionary Islam was likely to be along the old Silk Route and the Chinese seemed to nod in affirmation. Gujral also told his Chinese counterpart that if he expected India to show understanding on the Tibet question it had to be reciprocated on the Kashmir issue. Finally, the last thing China would want is to get involved in a major Asian conflict a few months before it stages the Asiad in Beijing.



While the sabre-rattling continues, no clear direction has been given to the armed forces by political authorities

The key question, however, was: what would the two sides talk about when there is a fundamental divergence on what should be discussed? Pakistan insists that the talks must focus on a long-term settlement of the Kashmir question as provided for in the Shimla accord. The Indian position is that the only reason the Kashmir issue has come to the fore today is Pakistan-aided subversion and that should be the subject of discussion. "I am not discussing our territory with anyone. I will discuss peace and de-escalation," said Gujral.

With the two sides taking opposite positions even on the agenda of the talks it is unrealistic to expect a tangible formula for peace to be evolved in the near future. Sources in South Block admit that while the Indian diplomatic drive has so far been successful, as the situation enters the next phase there will be problems. The superpowers and the international community may restrain Pakistan and prevent war but the next question they are bound to ask is: why don't the two countries seek a solution to the Kashmir problem? This is where India walks on thin ice.

Both the US and the Soviets are demanding that India stop insist-

GUEST COLUMN BY RAVI RIKHYE

Avoid a War of Pique

AS one who has studied South Asian military forces for 20 years I most emphatically ask you to say "no!" to war. The secret of winning is knowing when to fight, and this is not the time.

Unlike the tame surrender by Pakistan in 1971, a war today will be prolonged and costly and will settle nothing

Any remedy to our current problems with Pakistan—strafing, hot pursuit, destruction of terrorist camps—means full-scale war. Well, what of it? say people. Let's finish the problem once and for all. But hold it—isn't that what we thought we had done in 1971? There are five reasons to avoid war today.

One, though militarily we are much stronger, much of our strength is dispersed. China will not stand by this time and let us break Pakistan. So, of our 35 divisions, seven must be left in the north. Four to six must be used to hold down Punjab and the crucial Pathankot-Jammu corridor. We might be able to defend with what's left. But to attack, we will have to uncover vital sectors, or concede ground to China, or ignore the immense turmoil that war will cause internally, right athwart the army's lines of communication. Our army is sized to fight on two fronts, not three.

Two, our strength can be brought to bear decisively only in a longer war. There can be no longer war because our government always collapses so soon. It does not matter if we are winning, as in 1948, 1965, 1971 or 1984 (Siachin), or losing, as in 1962 or 1989 (Sri Lanka), we can count on the Government backing down. We may as well, then, avoid war.

This time there will be no US to restrain Pakistan as in 1965 and 1971 (by imposing crippling arms embargoes). There will be no Soviet Union to help us as in 1965 and 1971. On the other hand, the entire Muslim world will back Pakistan.

Three, we simply cannot afford a war of pique today. 1971 cost us Rs 400 crore for two weeks. In 1990, the military forces are twice as large, material costs are 10 times as high, and the war will go on for at least four times longer. That means a war could cost around Rs 30,000 crore, twice our defence budget as opposed to one-third in 1971. If this were a one-time cost towards solving the Pakistan problem, it would still be cheap. But we know from experience that in 2001 we will still be talking of the final solution, as in 2011 or in 2021. Rs 30,000 crore is too much to pay for one more round of fighting.

Four, let us honestly admit our secret shame. General Sundarji tells us the army is too bloody good to be ruined by a few bloody people. But sir, it isn't just a few bloody people. True, we aren't where the French were in 1940, but

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ing that Kashmir is a non-negotiable issue. "If it was not an issue why does the Shimla agreement provide for a bilateral mechanism to settle it? It is time both India and Pakistan did something so the seven million Kashmiris can't hold to ransom the subcontinent's 930 million people," said a western diplomat. Having scored a point over Pakistan in the first round of diplomatic competition thus, India faces some inconvenient questions.

What will decide the issue in the short run will be the situation in the valley. If the durbar move succeeds and the general secessionist euphoria is replaced by realism, however bitter, that it will be impossible to secede from India, there may well be a de-escalation in the overall tension. Otherwise, as the snows melt in May, trans-border crossings increase and the security forces and militants up the ante, the final choice could indeed be between war or negotiations on the one issue India is disinclined to talk about: the future of Kashmir.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA

we're getting there. It can no longer be assumed that our men will blindly sacrifice themselves if a government is not able to give them a good enough cause for it. Also, the army is not immune to the general cynicism plaguing our society. The army that gave us 13 Kumaon at Rezangla and the 1 Sikh at Walong, the air force that attacked Sargodha heedless of loss, the navy that sailed into Karachi harbour in *patrol boats*, general sir, these all belong to your past.

Lastly, a decision to start a war must have a moral dimension. In India only a quarter per cent of the population fights. The rest risks nothing except higher taxes. It is immoral to call for a war because we have run out of ideas on how to handle our internal problems. (Rajasthan and Gujarat also border Pakistan. Why are they not in a state of near insurgency?). The military man is a servant of the state. But that does not give the state the right to ask him to die, just because it pays his wages. The problem is the making of those who rule our country. They should solve it.

The military, the state's final instrument of violence and its last bastion against the disorder that threatens to engulf us, has become as fragile as the state. Perhaps I am wrong. Perhaps we will roll over Pakistan. But if you are among those calling for war, consider the consequences if I am right.

KASHMIR

Stepping up the Pressure

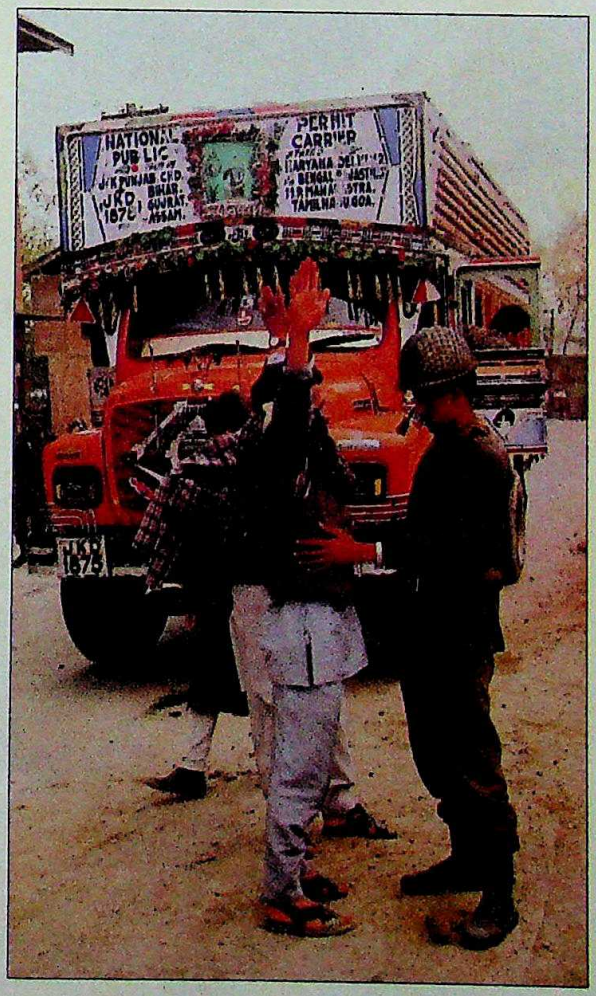
The administration cracks down on militants

KASHMIR is under siege again. This time it is not the militants who have paralysed the valley but the 128 paramilitary companies—38 BSF and 90 CRPF—who in an obvious shift of strategy are out in full strength, keeping an armed vigil in the bylanes and bazars, crossroads and highways; cordoning *mohallas*; searching houses and rounding up suspects. For the first time, there are signs of the state machinery gearing up to 'liberate' the land from the militant grip.

The crackdown began on April 5 when curfew was clamped in the valley following the kidnapping of Kashmir University vice-chancellor Mushir-ul-Haq, his private assistant Abdul Ghani and HMT general manager, H.L. Khera. Fear gripped the valley as, in a sharp reversal of roles, security forces, aided by the army, fanned out into Sopore, Anantnag and Baramulla—the heart of terrorist territory—and raided houses in Chanpura and Batmaloo in Srinagar, militant strongholds considered out-of-bounds for uniformed personnel. Governor Jagmohan had begun in a conciliatory manner but with the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) holding the state to ransom—demanding the release of three terrorists and the lifting of curfew in exchange for the release of the vice-chancellor, his personal assistant and the HMT general manager—he decided to pull out all the stops.

"No government worth its name can go on releasing militants," said a senior aide of the governor adding, "this time we just had to get cracking." Round-the-clock curfew was imposed in the valley—continuing for 11 consecutive days with no relaxation. And in their first assertion of authority, security forces made use of the terrorists' own weapon: surprise. In the crackdown which continued at full steam till April 20—the last Friday before Id—security forces raided and searched 7,000 houses and arrested 370 militants and their sympathisers.

"We have made a breakthrough in Kashmir and apprehended hardcore terrorists," Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed told irate National Conference members in Parliament when



Security forces in the valley have intensified systematic efforts to round up suspects

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cathay Pacific.

The Airline with Flight Attendants from ten Asian Lands, who smile in one common language.

The Swire Group

Like all our flight attendants Annie Hui of Hong Kong was chosen for her unique Oriental grace and charm. As part of our dedicated Cathay Pacific team, Annie provides inflight service that is as efficient and cosmopolitan as Hong Kong itself. Whether they come from Indonesia, Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Korea or Hong Kong, our flight attendants serve one single purpose. They help the new world of international travellers arrive in better shape.

CATHAY PACIFIC

Arrive in better shape.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

they staged a walk-out, demanding that curfew be relaxed. Continuous curfew was, in fact, a strategic decision aimed at restricting the militants to their hideouts. Bottled up in the valley, they were left with little chance of escape, especially since the administration had prohibited the plying of all private vehicles. And for the first time the militants, pushed to a corner, did not exhort the public to defy curfew.

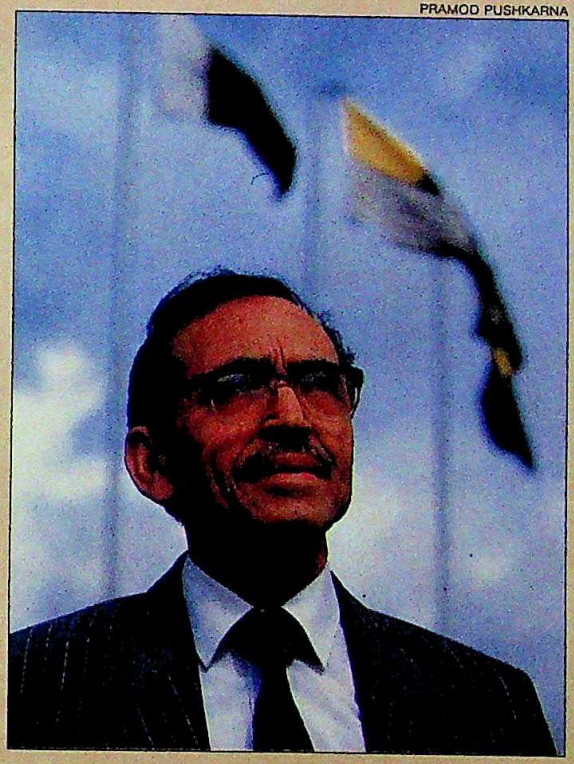
As soldiers patrolled the deserted streets, the people were too scared to even peek out of their windows and life came to a standstill. Paramilitary forces moved about the narrow lanes and gullies purposefully. And, perhaps for the first time, they scanned the interiors and took positions outside Jamia Masjid and Hazrat Bal, the loud cries and chants of *jehad* and *azadi* having fallen silent.

THE pressure yielded partial dividends: the arrest of seven area commanders of the JKLF including Shokat Bakshi, Javed Jargar and the much-wanted military adviser Iqbal Gangroo. Qasir Jaan, Ayub Bangroo and Ilhas Wani were killed in encounters and three top men of the second most powerful militant group, the Jamait-i-Islami, arrested.

The army and the BSF met with further success when, aided by the imposition of dusk-to-dawn curfew throughout the 5-km belt on the Indo-Pak border, they arrested 100 youths, killed eight and seized large quantities of arms and ammunition: Kalashnikovs, anti-tank mines with Pak markings, Chinese hand grenades, revolvers and pistols.

"We have the upper hand at the moment," said a senior CRPF official adding, "the message has been sent that we too can strike at will. It is not their

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



AMANULLAH KHAN

Stoking the Fire

TERRORISTS are not a particularly popular breed in the US. Especially the Islamic militant variety. That's one thing the Qadaffis and Ayatollahs have ensured through the years.

The intensity of this dislike struck Amanullah Khan with full force on April 9. That day, the chairman of the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front (JKLF) had gleefully announced that his organisation had executed the Kashmir University vice-chancellor. The reaction must have taken him by surprise. If he had come to the US to win friends and influence people, his statement, he found, had achieved quite the opposite. Precisely: the revocation of his visa.

For once, the State Department readily responded to the Indian outrage over his statements. And amid the cry of revulsion, even Pakistan seemed to have been put on the defensive, declining to comment on the State Department's action against a Pakistani passport holder. Normally, a smart lawyer could help Khan stay in the US for a long time despite the revocation. But Indian sources say the Government's next step would be the submission of an FIR against him, demanding his extradition. That should make Khan, past master of international subterfuge, quickly leave the US.

Khan's visit to the US was, of course, just part of an orchestrated campaign by a few Kashmiri Muslim organisations to drum up support for their cause. They have been trying to influence Congress and the State Department by making allegations of large-scale human rights abuse by Indian forces. Since the escalation of trouble in the valley earlier this year their activity has reached unprecedented levels. On January 25, for instance, an organisation called the Kashmiri American Council placed a $6,500 (Rs 1,10,500) quarter-page advertisement in the *Washington Post* proclaiming that "Kashmir has never been recognised as part of India by the international community".

The next day, the *New York Times* carried another $10,000 advertisement sponsored by a group called Concerned Citizens for Human Rights in Kashmir. Twenty-two people, most of them physicians, signed an appeal to give Kashmiris "their fundamental right of self-determination to decide their own future".

The objectivity of the concern for human rights, however, became slightly suspect on closer examination. All the signatories, with one exception, are Kashmiri Muslims. "There wasn't enough time to contact any Kashmiri pandits," Dr Shaukat Ashai, one of the signatories, says lamely. "But we do plan to get them involved."

Kashmiri pandits, on the other hand, have shown no such inclination. On the contrary they oppose the Muslim groups' campaign though with utterly inadequate resources. The Kashmiri Overseas Organisation, an organisation of pandits, has just a couple of thousand dollars in its kitty which it will use primarily to rehabilitate Kashmiri refugees in Jammu and Delhi. "What do you achieve by inflammatory ads in the newspapers?" asks Ashok Raina, a member of the organisation's board.

With things hotting up for Amanullah Khan now, Kashmiri Muslim organisations will probably rally around him. But given the general reaction to his statements, he is hardly the kind to earn the Kashmiri separatists much goodwill in the US.

—AMRIT KAKARIA in New York and DEEPA ARORA in Chicago

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

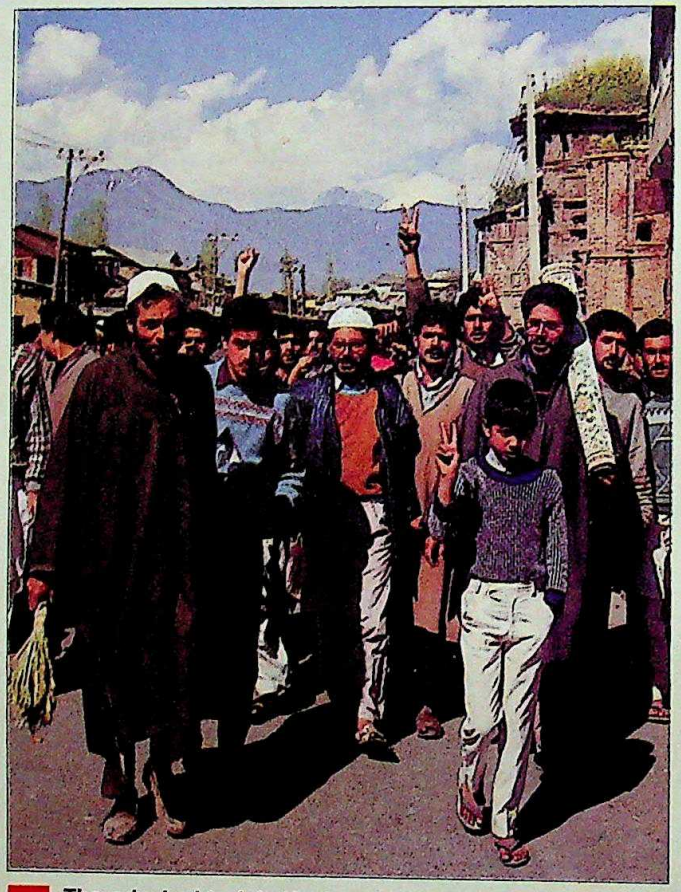
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

writ alone that runs." To enforce its writ, the Government took a series of decisions. The Public Safety Act was amended to provide for detention outside the state; eight terrorist organisations were banned and declared unlawful under the Criminal Amendment Act, 1983; two new posts of special commissioners in Srinagar and Jammu divisions were set up; and stern action was taken against local newspapers which had printed the militants' threats of executing non-Kashmiri government employees and gunning down Kashmiri pandits unless they left the valley within 48 hours.

Curfew, which was imposed with the main aim of rescuing the ill-fated hostages, continued as the Government, stung by their killings, decided to keep the heat on. Intensified combing operations were carried out on houses of government employees suspected to have been providing shelter to the militants: 97 of them were placed under suspension. While earlier, government employees and personnel of the Jammu & Kashmir Armed Police (JKAP) had gone on strike each time an employee was suspended, this time they offered little resistance. The Soura Institute of Medical Sciences, a stronghold of the Jamait, where doctors are known to secretly treat injured terrorists and even help them escape, was searched thrice.

The governor has, in keeping with his image of a nursing orderly, administered some bitter medicine. An extension of this 'treatment' are the decisions to move the government administration from Jammu to Srinagar on May 7, reopen schools on May 1 and colleges on May 15, and bring in the Indo-Tibetan Border Police to get banks in the valley working once again.

The crackdown has, to some extent, forced the militants to adopt, for the time being, a defensive posture. But the JKLF, as one of its sympathisers points out, "has still to expose its full might". It gave a hint of that when, right in the midst of curfew, it managed to gun down Sheikh Abdul Jabber, a former minister, shoot dead a home guard, kill a nurse, Sarla Bhatt, and throw her body in the main Lal Chowk area. And when curfew was relaxed, the organisation gave another demonstration of its hold. Instigated by it, a large crowd of 60,000 gathered in Jamia Masjid for *namaz* and raised slogans of *azadi* while the security forces looked on. Worse can be expected for only seven of the organisation's 38 area commanders have been arrested. As many as 4,000 youths have already received arms training and too many arms have come into the valley for the militants to be deterred by the current crackdown which in any case cannot last very long. For how long, after all, can the valley be kept under curfew? Government officials themselves admit that they can't keep the lid on forever, realising that while the militant camp might be demoralised now, they are potent enough to strike back with vengeance.



The principal task in Kashmir is to wean away the populace from the influence of the militants

Another problem is the further widening of the gap between the people and the administration. The JKLF flags may have been removed from atop houses but in people's hearts there is acceptance of a de facto Islamic state where the populace refuses to tune in to the national channel and switches on Pakistan TV instead, where Id is celebrated not when the Imam of Jama Masjid announces the date but when Islamabad proclaims it, where government officials, while drawing salaries from the state, are actually crossing over to Pakistan for arms training, where families send their 15-year-old sons to Pakistan after a special *mehndi* ceremony exhorting them to learn to use guns and return to liberate them.

Cooped up in their homes, the locals are an embittered lot. "The security forces abused me when they discovered a picture of Zia-ul-Haq lying with my books. They wanted to know if he was my husband," complains a young girl living in the Batmaloo area. Others complain of chilli powder mixed with water being thrown into their eyes.

"The Indian state already considers every Kashmiri to be a Pakistani," declares an aged Kashmiri Muslim. "Impose more curfew if you like. We can survive without work for the next two years," he says, his eyes ablaze.

That raises vital questions. With such a mood of hatred what will happen when the snows melt in May, infiltration from across the border increases and the Government throws a challenge at the militants by bringing in the state administration from Jammu and opening schools and colleges? The Government's fire-fighting operation so far may have been able to contain the blaze but the valley still smoulders and the separatist gale fanning the flames has still not died down. Ideally, the approach could be to initiate a political dialogue, perhaps through Kashmir Affairs Minister George Fernandes at some stage. But that could only be when the Government is in a position of dominance and the militants are decisively pushed back on the defensive. Despite the gains over the past fortnight that situation is still a far cry.

—HARINDER BAWEJA in Srinagar

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Samaj Foundation Chennai and e

NOW

THE POWER OF TURBO SOUND

212-R Deluxe

- 53 cm FS tinted picture tube
- Off timer
- Auto search tuning
- Dynamic on-screen display
- Full function infra-red remote control
- Super wide AVR (90 to 270 V, AC 50 Hz)
- Excellent sound through turbo speaker system

VIDEOCON

-0 ic Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collectio Haridwar

BRING HOME THE LEADE

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CABINET RESHUFFLE

Balancing Act

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh accommodates factional demands, but still remains fully in command.

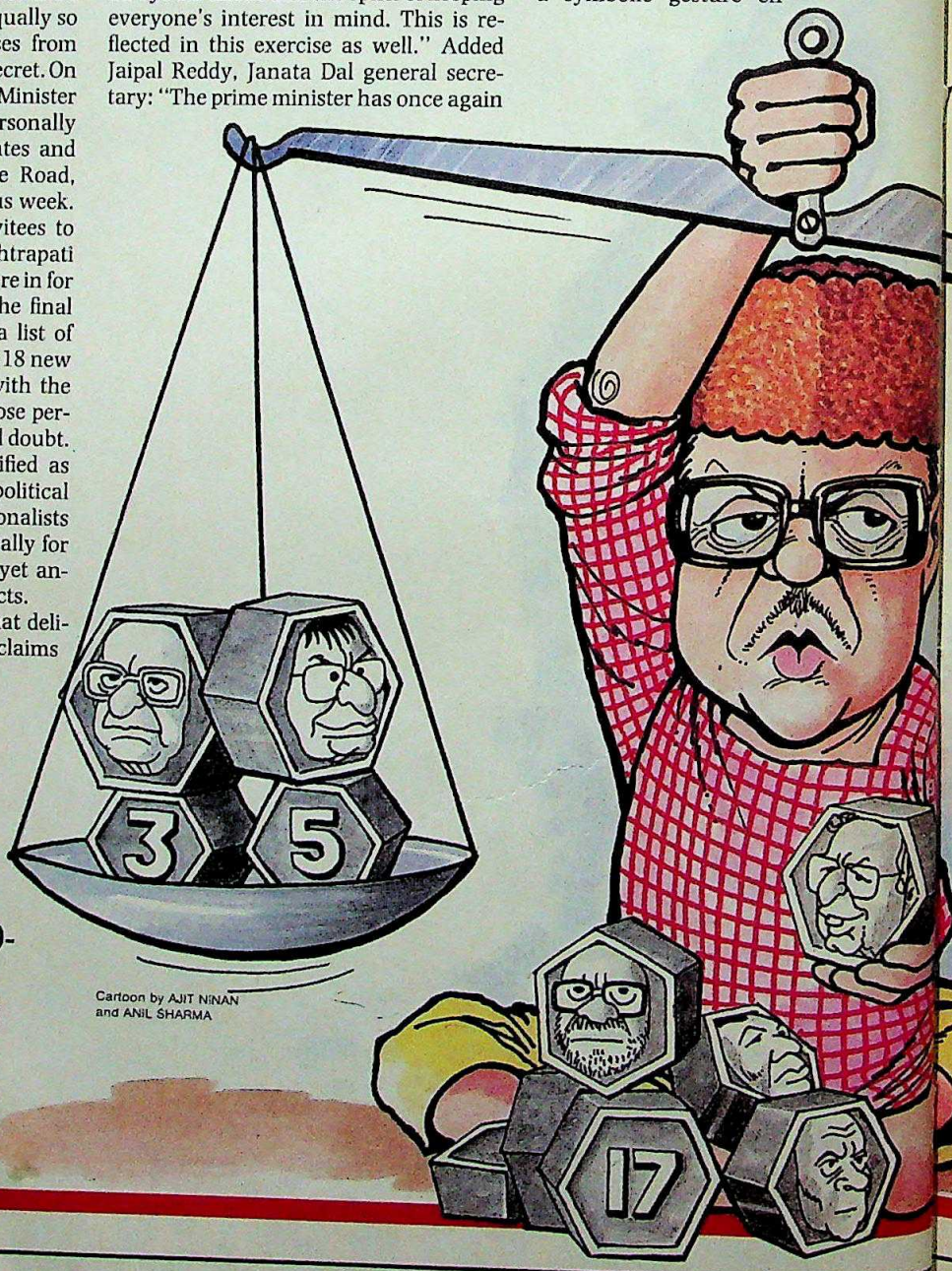
FOR the last couple of weeks, what with news of the first cabinet expansion in the air, Janata Dal hopefuls for ministerial berths had remained glued to their phones, awaiting that all-important call from the prime minister's house. And when that fateful bell finally rang last fortnight, many of them, considered to be "certains" were disappointed. Equally so were the party's factional bosses from whom the names were held as a secret. On the day of the swearing-in, Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh personally rang up all prospective candidates and invited them to 7, Race Course Road, where he had moved the previous week.

Party bigwigs and other invitees to the formal ceremony in Rashtrapati Bhawan's ornate Ashoka Hall were in for somewhat of a surprise when the final names were announced. From a list of some 100 claimants, Singh chose 18 new ministers politically associated with the party's factional leaders, but whose personal loyalty to Singh was beyond doubt. Even though they can be identified as being part of one or the other political camps, they are not diehard factionalists who would sacrifice Singh politically for their partisan groupings. It was yet another one of Singh's balancing acts.

He not only struck a somewhat delicate balance between the inflated claims of the power-centres in the party, but also succeeded in accommodating various community and caste pressure groups. Said Industry Minister Ajit Singh after the cabinet expansion, which brought the council of ministers to a total of 40. "I definitely feel that the prime minister has an eye for talent and the spirit of keeping everyone's interest in mind. This is reflected in this exercise as well." Added Jaipal Reddy, Janata Dal general secretary: "The prime minister has once again proved that the Janata Dal Government will have a distinct identity. It is an optimum mix of youth and experience."

Even Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal, hitherto the fount of the Janata Dal's intra-party squabbles, was conspicuous by his presence at Rashtrapati Bhawan—a symbolic gesture en-

The final political tally of who is considered to be whose man in the expanded 40-member council is: V.P. Singh loyalists, 17; Devi Lal, 6; Ajit Singh, 5; Biju Patnaik, 3; and Chandra Shekhar, 3...



Cartoon by AJIT NINAN and ANIL SHARMA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

dorsing Singh's selection of the new ministers.

The final tally of who is considered to be whose man is as follows: V.P. Singh loyalists, 17; Devi Lal, 6; Ajit Singh, 5; Biju Patnaik, 3; and Chandra Shekhar, 3. The remaining six are loyalists of chief ministers or other regional party leaders.

In fact, Singh had planned the new inductions before the beginning of the budget session, but was hampered because of the serious political crises brought on by the Meham violence and the secessionist upsurge in Kashmir. Singh was also hamstrung by the continuing lobbying by factional bosses—Devi Lal, Ajit Singh, Ramakrishna Hegde; chief ministers Laloo Prasad Yadav, Mulayam Singh Yadav, Chimanbhai Patel, Biju Patnaik, and, of course, the evergreen dissident Chandra Shekhar.

Even though V.P. Singh has consistently maintained that as prime minister it is his exclusive prerogative to choose his team, he, nonetheless, maintained a facade of consensus. During the last two months, he had over 50 meetings with senior party leaders and also monitored the performance of his party MPs. He also asked for, and received, a list of more than 40 ministerial potentials from factional and caste leaders.

But despite these elaborate parleys, Singh was still unable to fill four cabinet berths he wanted to. For these four posts there were at least 12 candidates, including Vidya Charan Shukla, Yashwant Sinha, Rasheed Masood, Raj Mangal Pandey, Samrendra Kundu, Ram Dhan, Purushottam Kaushik and Asoke Sen who was backed by the CPI(M) and the Ambanis. Since Singh could not afford to displease any of them, he dropped the idea of inducting any cabinet rank minister.

FINALLY, after pruning the list down to 30, Singh sent 18 names to President R. Venkataraman. Some were obvious compromises. He had given a slice of the cake of political power to the nominees of just about every factional leader.

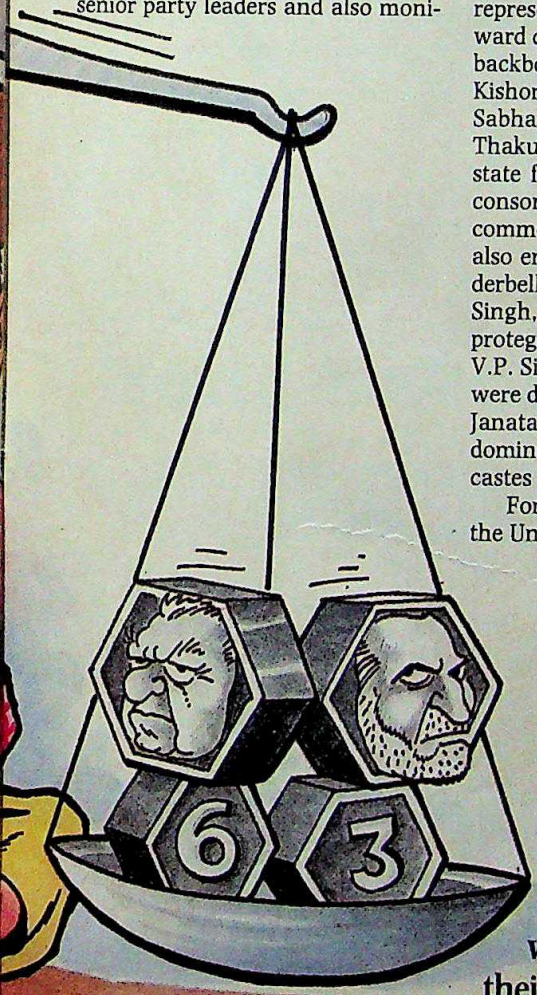
In terms of caste and community representation, the first ever Rajput prime minister deliberately ignored his own caste and, instead, gave over 50 per cent representation to intermediary and backward castes like the Jats and Kurmis, the backbone of the ruling Janata Dal. Hari Kishore Singh , an Oxford educated Lok Sabha MP from Bihar, was the only Thakur who was picked—as minister of state for external affairs. This was also consonant with Singh's strategy of accommodating factional leaders, while also ensuring that his own political underbelly is unexposed. Hari Kishore Singh, for example, is a Chandra Shekhar protege, but he is also known to be close to V.P. Singh. If the Congress governments were dominated by the upper castes, the Janata Dal Government has given a predominant role to intermediate and lower castes and landed peasantry.

For the first time since Independence, the Union Council of Ministers will have six Jat ministers. Says a senior official of the Home Ministry: "We have the rural majority eventually controlling the levers of power at the Centre." But, according to the Prime Minister's Office (PMO), the major emphasis this time round was not only the clean image of the person but his ability to run the ministry effectively as well. But this is yet to be proven because, of the 40 ministers, 22 never held any ministerial post in their career.

The prime minister, however, was unable to strike a regional balance. Of the 25 states in the country, 14 are still not represented in the Cabinet. And expectedly, every second minister came from either of the two major Hindi-speaking states of Uttar Pradesh (15) and Bihar (7). These states together sent 85 Janata Dal MPs to the Lok Sabha. Even Singh admitted that there were some imbalances to be corrected, but felt in the absence of Janata Dal MPs from many of the states his options were limited. And for erasing the impression that his was basically a cow-belt party, Singh went out of the way to give disproportionate representation to six ministers from the south. Since the Janata Dal could not ensure enough Lok Sabha seats from the south, Singh found Rajya Sabha seats for Union ministers like M.G.K. Menon, Raja Ramanna and M.S. Gurupadaswamy from outside their home states. Said Singh: "The only problem is that very few members have been elected from the south . But still an attempt has been made to give due representation to all regions and make a balanced cabinet."

And Singh displayed a machiavellian bent in the allocation of some portfolios. In order to prevent the cementing of vested interests, the new ministers were given departments they least expected. For example Ajay Singh was expecting tourism, but was despatched to Rail Bhawan to assist George Fernandes. And Rasheed Masood, who had staked a claim on civil aviation, was given independent charge of health and family welfare.

But the most crucial choice was that of Anil Shastri—the brother of Hari Shastri, Singh's Congress(I) rival from the Fatehpur constituency—as deputy minister of finance. All the factional leaders had lobbied furiously for their own nominees for induction in this sensitive department. But Singh simply ignored them. Shastri is not only loyal to Singh but is also known for his unsullied reputation. The Union Government thus has once again a representation from Lal Bahadur Shastri's family. Another clever move was to appoint Subodh Kant Sahay, a former student leader and an ardent supporter of Chandra Shekhar as minister of state for home at a time when the Home Ministry is

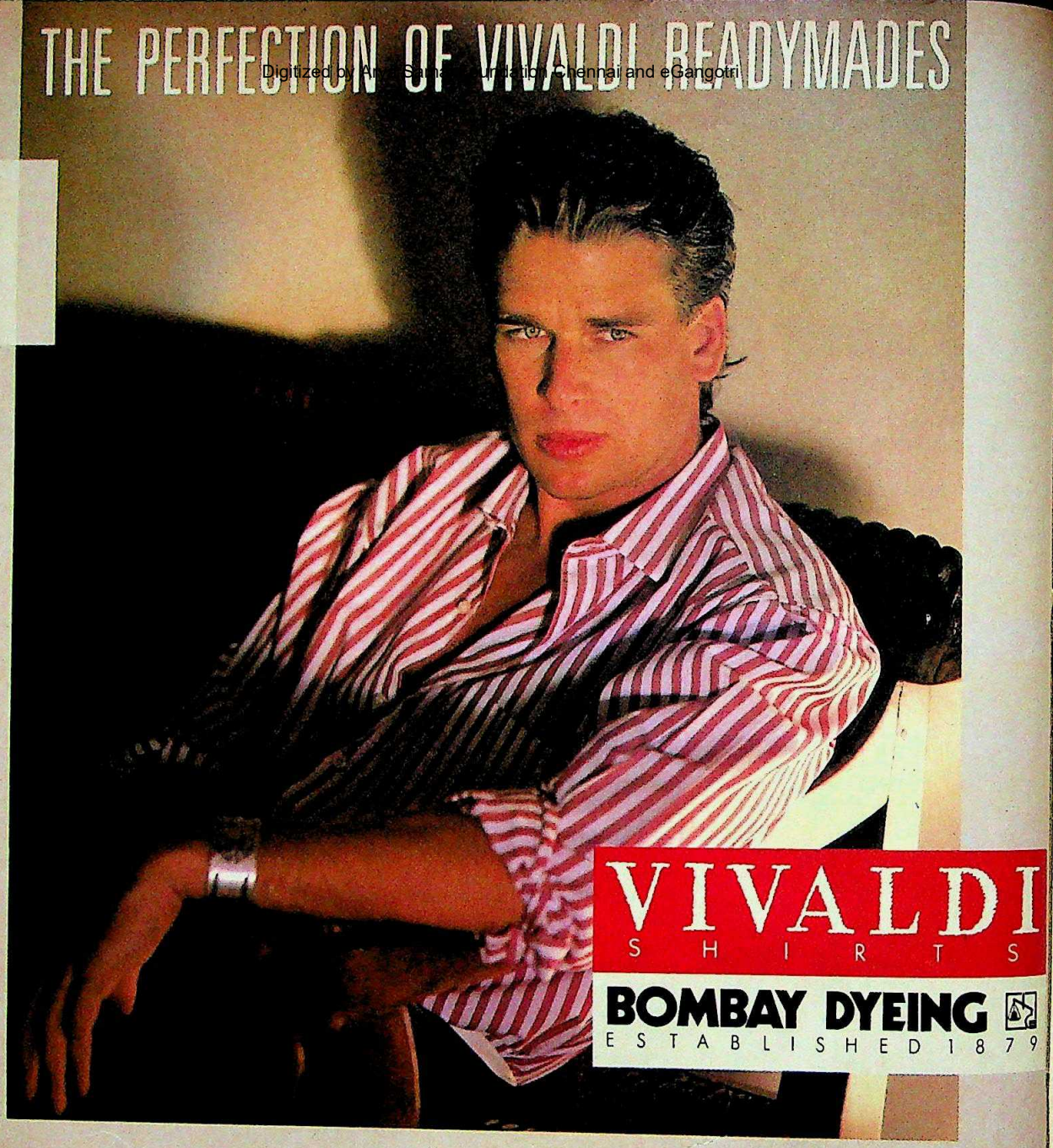


...The remaining 6 are considered the loyalists of chief ministers and regional party leaders, but are not diehard factionalists who would sacrifice Singh for their partisan groupings.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE PERFECTION OF VIVALDI READYMADES



When the people who excel in shirting fabrics decide to excel in tailoring them — the result is readymade perfection. Vivaldi Shirts from Bombay Dyeing. From the selection of fine cotton and polyester cotton fabrics, right down to the last button, you won't find a thing out of place in a Vivaldi Shirt. What you will find, shirt after shirt after shirt, is a perfect fit. At Bombay Dyeing, the attention to quality is absolute. Because we know that the professional in you expects it.

---------- VIVALDI. THE THREAD OF QUALITY RUNS RIGHT THROUGH ----------

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

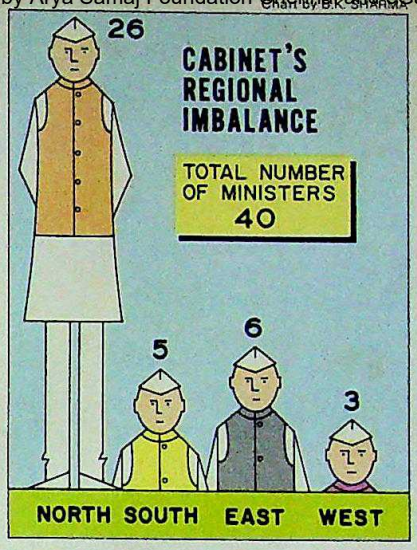
Available at select Bombay Dyeing showrooms

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

under investigation for allegedly tapping Chandra Shekhar's phones. If the charges, made by Chandra Shekhar, turn out to be untrue as the Government maintains, then Chandra Shekhar will have a difficult time attacking the credibility of the Home Ministry.

Singh's concession to Devi Lal was the appointment of the *Tau*'s man, Nitish Kumar, an MP from Bihar, as minister of state in the Agriculture Ministry along with another minister of state. This also satisfied Devi Lal on another plane: he had been asking the prime minister for ministerial support for answering parliamentary questions.

In addition, contrary to his professed position that he would not make any changes in the functioning of his cabinet, he made a minor yet important reshuffle of portfolios. And there was a clear message in these changes as well. By appointing Nilamani Routray as cabinet minister for environment and forests, the prime minister clipped the wings of Maneka Gandhi, who was till recently holding an independent charge of the ministry. Maneka, by her hard-headedness and whimsical style of functioning, had rubbed senior officials and cabinet colleagues the wrong way. Also, K.P. Unnikrishnan was divested of the important communications portfolio because of his embarrassing public feud with Telecommission Chairman Sam Pitroda. But, simultaneously, Singh also okayed a CBI probe into various charges against Pitroda, thus making it clear the reshuffle was not exactly a victory for Pitroda. Barring these changes, the prime minister left powerful ministers like Arun Nehru, Arif Mohammed Khan and other political allies like the Telugu Desam and the DMK untouched.



V.P. Singh was unable to strike a regional balance. Out of 25 states, 14 have no cabinet representation.

According to the PMO, there may be yet another expansion after the current session of Parliament. Though the party has only 142 members in the Lok Sabha and 38 in the Rajya Sabha, the size of the Union Cabinet can be raised to at least 55—the average size during the last three decades. Moreover, the prime minister is also waiting for the reshuffling of the Janata Dal organisation. And once that is over, Singh will begin his third major exercise of balancing the conflicting forces within his party and government.

—PRABHU CHAWLA

JANATA DAL

Proxy Poll

IT is election time again for the ruling Janata Dal. Last fortnight, as the party announced the schedule for holding elections for the party's national president, the stage was set for yet one more embarrassing political battle in the party. Even though factional bosses like Chandra Shekhar, Devi Lal and Ajit Singh kept themselves personally out of the contests, they were nonetheless fighting one another by proxy.

In fact, the question of party elections to fill the void created by V.P. Singh's resignation as president would not have arisen if Devi Lal had kept his thoughts to himself. In his meetings with the prime minister, and later, with the press, he asserted that not only would the new president be from the south but also that he should not be imposed through consensus. Said Devi Lal: "Consensus formula is one way of getting a dummy elected through the back-door. Let us have a real election."

Let alone a national president, the Janata Dal has not been able to find suitable replacements for important party posts even in states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, Bihar, Gujarat and Orissa where the incumbents—either the chief ministers or other ministers—continue to ignore party work. So pathetic is the state of party affairs that the central office did not have money to buy air tickets for its general secretaries. Admitted Yashwant Sinha, general secretary: "The party set-up is really weak. All of us have joined the Government."

Reddy (left); and Bommai: aspirants

The Political Affairs Committee (PAC) finally decided that for the presidential election to be held on May 1, all those who either won or contested on the Janata Dal ticket in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections are eligible for voting. The candidate would have to be sponsored by at least 20 members of the electoral college.

The first move in the electoral game was made by Devi Lal himself, who floated the name of former Karnataka chief minister S.R. Bommai. His son and Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala followed this up by getting Bommai sponsored. In retaliation, the supporters of Ramakrishna Hegde and Orissa Chief Minister Biju Patnaik sponsored Rajya Sabha member S. Jaipal Reddy. Interestingly, Devi Lal and Ajit Singh, though at loggerheads on other issues, threw their weight behind Bommai. And not to be left behind, Sant Bux Singh, elder brother of V.P. Singh, and Hukum Narayan Dev Yadav, an MP from Bihar, also filed their nominations. But for a compromise formula emerging, the "real election" could only drive deeper the wedges in the party.

—PRABHU CHAWLA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

U S H A

STYLE OF THE 90's

The future comes home to you in superbly styled computer-designed fans. Stella, Pulsar, Kohinoor... What a range.

Fans with over 40 years of excellence, of leadership. Fans most preferred in India and flying high in 60 countries of the world. Your Usha.

India's largest selling fan. USHA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ASSAM

Electoral Entanglements

The ruling AGP faces a desperate situation

WHEN they rode triumphantly into power just over four years ago, Prafulla Kumar Mahanta and his colleagues in the Asom Gana Parishad (AGP) were hailed as the true heroes of Assam. Today, they are seen as the arch villains. And, in an ironic twist of fate, the saviours of Assam—at least in the eyes of many people in the state—are now the gun-toting, dreaded underground militants belonging to the United Liberation Front of Asom (ULFA), a breakaway faction of the original AGP.

For Mahanta, the state's beleaguered chief minister, and his government, the parallel rise of ULFA's activities and its growing clout could not have come at a worse time. Already in disrepute for its 'non-performance' while in office, the economy further crippled by a panicked flight of capital from the state, the AGP Government prepares to confront the electorate this year with its vote bank facing near-total bankruptcy.

What has fuelled public anger is the Government's seeming helplessness to deal firmly with the ULFA threat, now assuming crisis proportions. Last fortnight, militants from the organisation gunned down well-known industrialist Surendra Paul, 54, head of the Apeejay group and chairman of the Assam Frontier Tea Company, in cold blood.

Though ULFA has not acknowledged responsibility for the killing—as they have normally done on other occasions—Paul's brutal murder has raised the panic level among businessmen in and outside the state to dangerous levels. There is now little doubt that the extremist organisation poses the biggest threat to not just the AGP Government's survival, but to the entire state. Mahanta admits that the problem has reached a "critical" stage. But there is little he can do considering the popular support for the underground organisation.

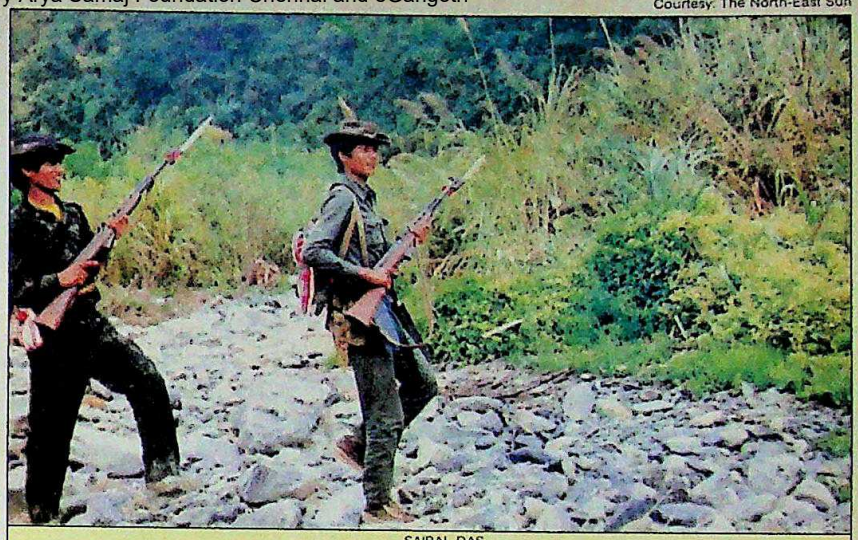
In Delhi, Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed acknowledged in Parliament that "ULFA has a long history. It has often adopted diversionary tactics as well by sometimes taking up social causes such as anti-corruption, anti-gambling and anti-liquor drives". ULFA seeks to establish a "soverign socialist Assam" through what they call a "total social revolution".

More worrying is the widespread belief in Assam that ULFA is operating with the AGP's blessings. Says former Union minister of state for home Santosh Mohan Dev: "There is a general feeling throughout Assam that the AGP Government is directly or indirectly connected with ULFA activities." Though AGP leaders stoutly deny any such links, some of the mud has obviously stuck.

Moreover, considering the approaching elections in Assam, Mahanta has been clearly clumsy in his approach. Last fortnight, when a leading English language daily, *The Sentinel*, criticised AGP's links with ULFA, Mahanta launched an assault on the local press leading to a week-long boycott of the state Government by the journalists. The end result: almost the entire Assam press has now turned against the AGP.

In electoral terms, the threat from ULFA takes another dimension. With the organisation's massive clout among the people, a call to boycott the elections will

Courtesy: The North-East Sun



SAIBAL DAS

ULFA guerillas under training; (left) Paul's funeral: rising militancy

What is worrying is the widespread belief in the state that ULFA is operating with the AGP's blessings. Though AGP leaders stoutly deny any such links, some of the mud has stuck.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

demolish any remote chance the AGP may have of emerging victorious. However, ULFA spokesman, Sidhartha Phukan insists that "we would never participate in elections under the Indian framework. Nor would we ask the people to boycott the election".

Saikia: confident

Even so, for a majority of the electorate in Assam, the growth of ULFA is seen as a direct result of the failures of the AGP Government. The popular perception of the AGP's inability to deliver the goods on the eve of the elections has further paralysed the state Government. Party General Secretary Atul Bora admits that the AGP's electoral position "is not good" but consoles himself with the remark that "I am sure no other political party would get absolute majority".

That is not what the Congress(I) believes. The decision by the party high command to bring back Hiteshwar Saikia as the party boss in Assam has created jitters in the AGP camp. The former Congress(I) chief minister has a reputation for being a wily and seasoned politician who can upset the electoral applecart. Says Aakon Borah, secretary of the Assam Congress(I): "If there is no support to the AGP by ULFA we can come back to power."

Saikia has already started proving his political worth. In the recent Rajya Sabha elections, the 12-member United Minorities Front (Jabbar group) voted in favour of the Congress(I) candidate, Bhubaneswar Kalita, who, with 37 votes pipped the AGP nominee, Union Law Minister Dinesh Goswami who got 35 votes. Saikia is known for his support among the minorities and ethnic groups.

Saikia's gameplan is simple: he plans to mobilise the minorities (most of whom are suspected to be 'foreigners') and the tribals in support of the Congress(I). In the 1985 elections, the AGP had got only 32.50 per cent votes (67 seats) at the height of its popularity.

Saikia's strategy appeared to be working. Last fortnight, the All Bodo Students Union (Upendra Bramha group), which resumed its violent stir for a separate state, declared that it would have no truck with ULFA. The AGP has for long believed that the Bodo movement has been covertly engineered by the Congress(I). If the other groups which have taken a vow to counter ULFA, jump into the fray, the Congress(I) is certain to reap the benefits.

Assam, it seemed, was inching towards a final round of political battles. The dangerous part is that this one will most probably be dominated by the gun.

—FARZAND AHMED in Guwahati

PRAFULLA MAHANTA

"The problem is critical"

WITH his government in the dock for non-performance, Assam Chief Minister Prafulla Kumar Mahanta faces a tough battle in the forthcoming elections in the state. Mahanta spoke to Chief Correspondent FARZAND AHMED *in Guwahati.*

BHAWAN SINGH

Q. *How do you propose to tackle the* ULFA *problem?*

A. The problem is very critical. We discussed it with all political parties in March and they too suggested it should be tackled politically and administratively. We are moving in that direction. There are over a million educated unemployed youth who are easily motivated by ULFA. We have been asking the Centre to give us more projects so that unemployed youth can be provided gainful employment.

Q. *It is widely believed that* ULFA *is getting help from the* AGP.

A. If the AGP is silent about ULFA, so are other political parties in the state. This does not mean we are helping them.

Q. *Your government has failed to provide protection to the business community, which is fleeing the state because of* ULFA*'s demands.*

A. Businessmen have not come to the Government or the administration with complaints. They report informally after paying the money. So it is very difficult for the administration to act swifly.

Q. *The* AGP *Government has been accused of doing nothing for four and a half years.*

A. This is not correct. In fact, it was the Congress(I) government at the Centre which did not extend any help to us. Instead, it tried to disturb and destabilise us. Now there is a friendly government at the Centre, so we hope for the better.

Q. *Have you got any assurance of help from the Centre?*

A. The Centre has asked us to deal with the situation firmly and has promised to send us an additional 15 companies of security forces soon. I think this is the time for the Centre to come forward in a big way to help develop the state. In the present situation, the people can easily be mobilised against the Centre. They have realised that without an agitation the Centre will do nothing for the state.

Q. *How do you assess your party's poll prospects?*

A. It depends on the implementation of the Assam accord, especially correction of electoral rolls. Some provisions of the accord could not be implemented because of the Centre's non-cooperative attitude in the past. For four years, the Centre did nothing. But on our own, we did help the people. However, their expectations are very high.

Q. *But the people seem to have lost confidence in the* AGP.

A. By nature some people are anti-establishment, particularly in urban areas. But we still have a strong support base in the villages.

Q. *It is said there is panic in the* AGP *camp over the appointment of Hiteshwar Saikia as state Congress(I) president.*

A. I do not think Saikia will matter much this time. During the last elections in 1985, he was in power and yet he was defeated. The people know him well and still remember his doings.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IGNORE IT

ONLY IF YOU CAN IGNORE A RS. 7000 REPAIR BILL

Oil, Fuel and Air filters can decide the fate of your engine. If they are inefficient, you will dislocated valves, damaged piston rings, ruined cylinder walls, engine seizure... and Rs. 7000 in repair bills.

If they work — the way Purolator does — you will get peak engine performance, excelle mileage, fewer servicings and low maintenance bills.

So, go ahead, insist on Purolator.
The filters your mechanic would highly recommend.

Purolato

THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING FILTER

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CONGRESS(I)

New Moves

Party election announced

THE Congress(I) leadership is attempting to do what appeared impossible until only yesterday: hold party elections. Confronted with increasing criticism for his inept handling of party affairs and in order to deflect attention from successive poll debacles, last fortnight, Congress(I) President Rajiv Gandhi formally announced the holding of elections to party posts by the end of the year.

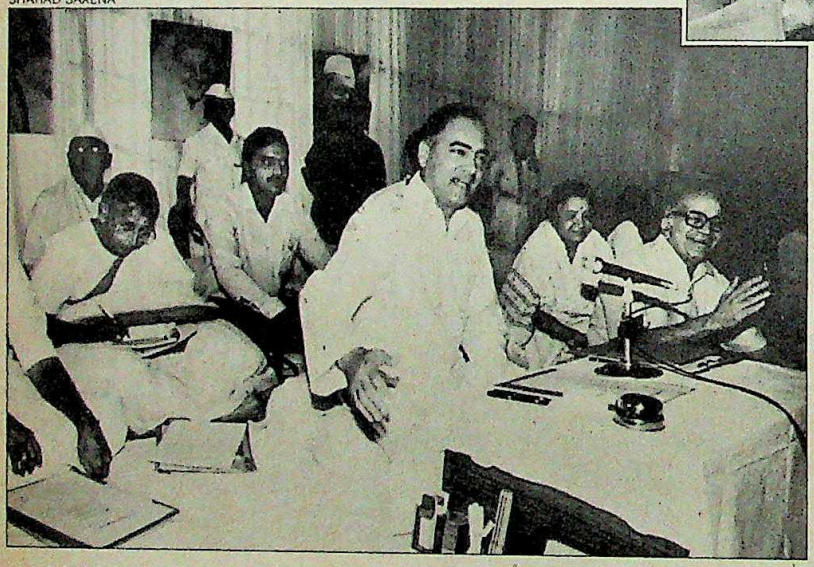
At the recent extended session of the Congress(I) Working Committee (CWC), it was decided that organisational elections—which were last held 18 years ago in 1972—would be completed by the end of this year. As a rule, a period of 145 days after announcement of polls is provided for filing nominations and preparing fresh rolls. The Umashankar Dikshit Committee—set up in 1987 to propose amendments to the party constitution in order to have a foolproof election system—also submitted its report at the session. One major recommendation aimed at eliminating bogus members is to provide each 'active member' of the party with a photo-identity card. The CWC is meeting again in the first week of May to deliberate on the committee's recommendations. Says the octogenarian Dikshit: "A view is crystallising that party elections are necessary for the regeneration of the Congress(I)."

Rajiv moved on other fronts at the same time to contain growing dissidence within the party. Not wishing to alienate any more partymen, he has made himself more accessible to MPs and even ordinary workers. Every morning, the Political Affairs Committee of the party meets to confer on the issues slated for discussions in both Houses; Rajiv himself regularly meets party MPs in the Congress(I) office in Parliament. This new exercise in public relations, insiders say, is aimed at pre-empting any attempt by dissidents in the party to consolidate their position.

At the moment, Rajiv's biggest worry is to accommodate senior party leaders in different positions. So he revamped the AICC(I) set-up by making senior leaders like Balram Jakhar, H.K.L. Bhagat, C.K. Jaffer Sharief and Mahavir Prasad the party's new general secretaries. At the same time, Assam strongman Hiteswar Saikia was made the Pradesh Congress(I) Committee (PCC-I) chief in view of the coming assembly elections in the state; Sushil Kumar Shinde—a nominee of R.K. Dhawan—was appointed the PCC(I) chief in Maharashtra; while in Orissa, Nandini Satpathy was replaced by the non-controversial tribal leader Giridhar Gomango.

Rajiv at Congress(I) Working Committee meet; (inset) Dikshit

SHARAD SAXENA



In an imitation of the Westminster parliamentary tradition, Rajiv has also formed a shadow cabinet. Former ministers, assisted by a team of MPs, have been assigned specific areas to concentrate on during debates in Parliament. P.V. Narasimha Rao will take care of external affairs, Dinesh Singh home and information, S. B. Chavan economic affairs, Madhavsinh Solanki defence, Vasant Sathe agriculture and industry and P. Shiv Shankar parliamentary affairs. Whether the shadow cabinet will improve the Congress(I)'s performance in Parliament will only be known in the coming months, but it will certainly play an important psychological role. "It keeps up the illusion of power," explained a veteran party MP. Indeed, for Sathe the shadow cabinet is "virtually a government in opposition."

Despite such efforts dissent did erupt when some senior partymen, who hold Rajiv responsible for the successive electoral routs, launched the 'Congress Forum for Action' last fortnight. Considered a platform for dissidents, the forum's convener is Balasaheb Vikhye Patil, an MP from Maharashtra, and its members include prominent partymen like Nawal Kishore Sharma and Jitendra Prasad. And what is even more crucial, Kamalapati Tripathi has endorsed the launching of the forum, saying that the party "fashioned by Jawaharlal Nehru is being destroyed".

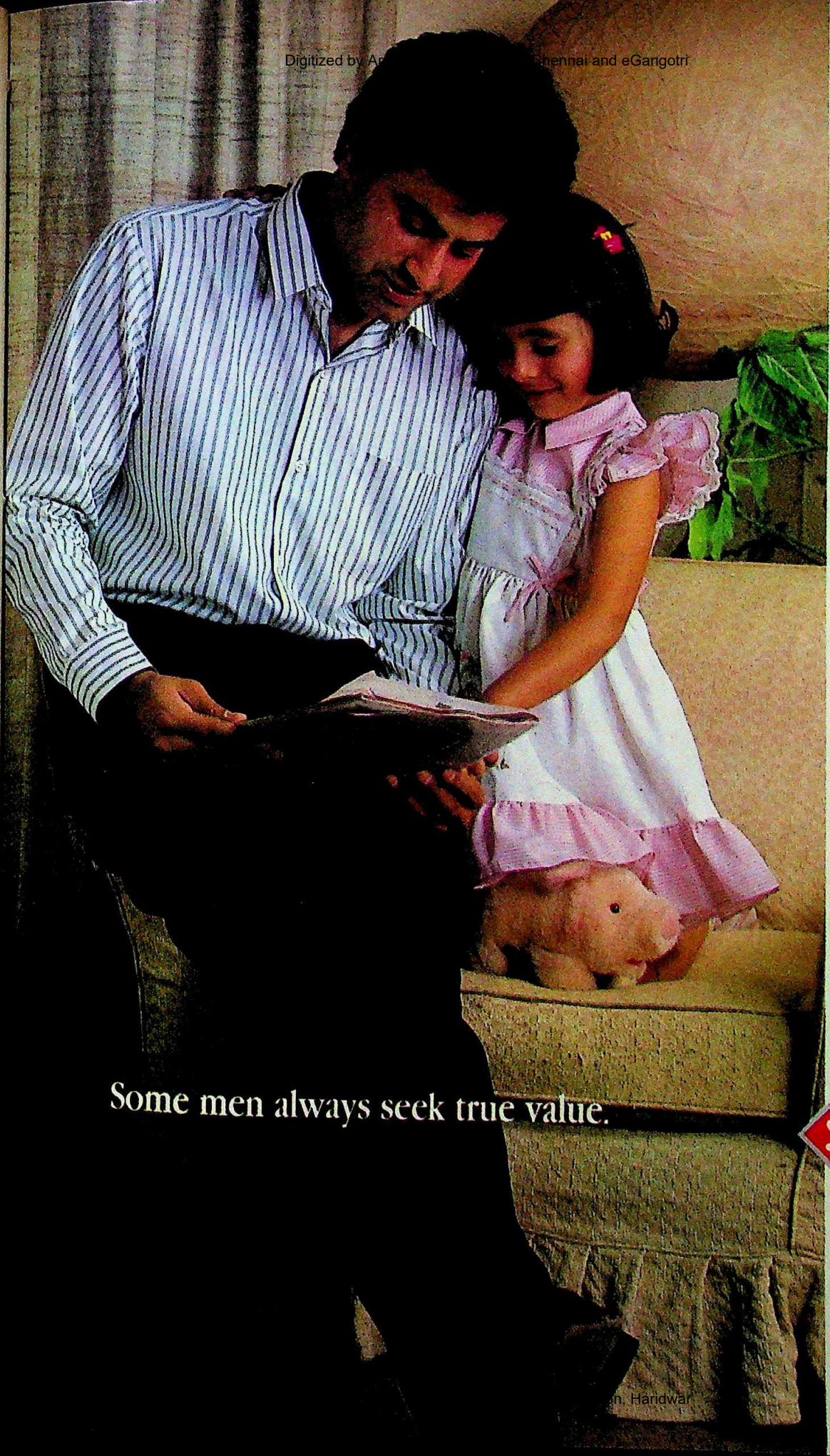
Meanwhile, the old guard continued to assert itself in a concerted manner. At the CWC meeting, several senior leaders openly criticised Rajiv's style of functioning and his dependence on a coterie. Even leaders like Sathe and V.N. Gadgil, who remain close to Rajiv, were openly critical of him. In a hard-hitting speech, Sathe said: "You (Rajiv) must have direct contact with partymen and certainly not through someone else." Gadgil too did not mince his words when he cautioned Rajiv: "You should not listen to those who are saying that this government is collapsing and we can take oath tomorrow." It was not without reason, therefore, that the meet—attended by over 250 key leaders from across the country—was being seen as a "victory for the old-guard".

Rajiv clearly continues to walk a tightrope. Already rejected by a chunk of the electorate, should he fail to keep the Congress(I) together he will sooner or later be rejected by his partymen as well. And given the conflicting interests of different groups and individuals within the Congress(I), his is no easy task, particularly as the spoils of office are no longer available for distribution.

—BHASKAR ROY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Ar Chennai and eGangotri



AND YOU ARE ONE OF THEI
A MAN WHO WILL
FIND TRUE VALUE.
IN RELATIONSHIP.
IN WORK.
IN LIFE.

STENCIL SEEKS TO SATISFY
YOUR KIND OF MAN.
WITH A LINE THAT INCLUD
POLYESTER COTTON BLEND
SHIRTS AND TROUSERS,
SUPERIOR LONG STAPLE
COTTON SHIRTS, MAGNUM
DRESS SHIRTS AND TROUSE
RHOMBUS CASUALWEAR —
DENIM JEANS AND SHIRTS,
T.SHIRTS, COTTON SHIRTS,
TROUSERS AND SHORTS.

BROUGHT TO YOU BY
INDIA'S LARGEST
MANUFACTURER OF
QUALITY SHIRTS.
ALL STENCIL GARMENTS
ARE TAILORED TO
UNCOMPROMISING STANDA
AND PRICED AT
THEIR TRUE VALUE.

GO AHEAD.
EXPERIENCE TRUE VALUE.
AND FEEL GOOD.

STENCIL APPARELS PVT.
Y-28, OKHLA INDUSTRIAL AREA
PHASE-II, NEW DELHI-110 020.
TEL: 6832191, 6838708, 6835396.

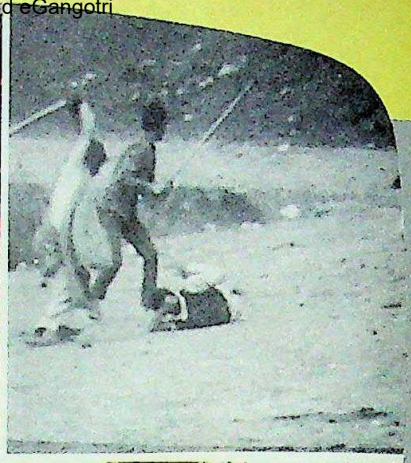
TRUE VALUE
STENCI
APPAREL

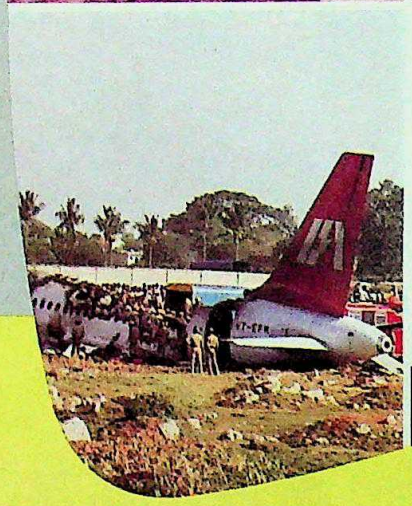
SHIRTS
TROUSER
JEANS
T. SHIRTS

B.KANGA/SS/19/90

GO NEWSTRACKING

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





n after you have
ard all about it and
d all about it — see it
on India's first
wsmagazine on video
sette — ***NEWSTRACK***
ought to you by the
ntry's leading
wsmagazine
DIA TODAY.

ess the play button and
u're on the ringside
at to people, places,
ents, issues and ideas
incisively covered like
no other medium
er before. ***NEWSTRACK***
kes you behind the
ws and newsmakers for
resh insight to what's
ppening—every month.

**re are some of the
ries *NEWSTRACK* has
rried in the past.**

ose-ups of the Assembly
ctions, the Airbus A-320
ntroversy, Poll violence in
eham, the militant situation
the Kashmir Valley, the
muzzling of Doordarshan
d AIR plus many more
eresting features. Also
erviews with VP Singh,
nazir Bhutto, Imran Khan,
adhuri Dixit and many
hers.

BECAUSE SEEING IS BELIEVIN

SPECIAL OFFERS

SINGLE CASSETTE

- Current Issue Rs. 145/- each
- Back Issues Rs. 135/- each

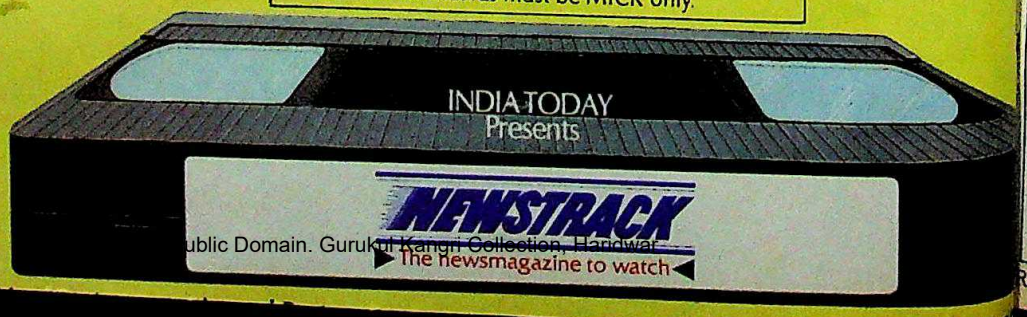
SUBSCRIPTION

- Annual Rs. 1380/- and a FREE ***INDIA TODAY*** ADDRESS BOOK.*

* Offer valid upto June 30, 1990. Address Books will be home delivered at your given address.

Please draw remittance in favour of Living Media India Ltd. by cheque/DD and mail alongwith your name and address to LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD., P.O. BOX 29, NEW DELHI-110 001.

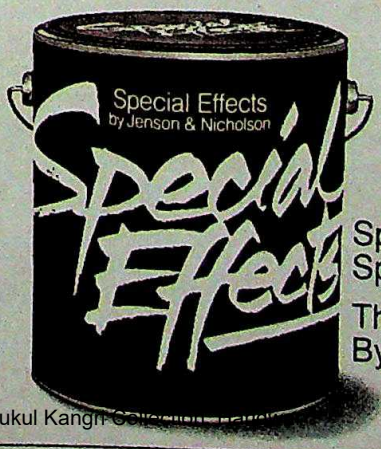
Cheques/Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.



ublic Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Response 9

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Special Effects
Special Wall Finish

The Masterpiece
By Jenson & Nicholson

Response 9011

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ONE WAY OF KEEPING COOL THIS SUMMER

If the heat is getting you down, you need a cooler.
Louis Philippe Cotton Shirts, for instance.
Because, formal or casual, Louis Philippe adds a certain dimension to your personality.
And is crafted with a meticulous attention to detail.
From the finest cottons, exclusively designed for Louis Philippe.
So, if you want to keep cool this summer, get yourself a Louis Philippe.

The signature of success

Louis Philippe
SIGNED DESIGNERWEAR

Premium shirts, trousers and accessories

Louis Philippe Exclusive Showrooms at: **AHMEDABAD:** G7 Amar Chamber, Near Swastik Char Rasta, Navrangpura. **BANGALORE:** Davidoss Building, Commercial Street. **BOMBAY:** India House No. 2, Kemps Corner. **CALCUTTA:** Opp. Dimple Court, Upper Wood Street. **COCHIN:** North End, M.G. Road. **COIMBATORE:** Whiteways Arcade, D.B. Road. **NEW DELHI:** F-43, South Extension I. **MADRAS:** Rani Seethai Hall, Opp. Anna Flyover. Opening shortly in other major towns.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ANDHRA PRADESH

Land Grab

Chenna Reddy linked to scam

PULMAMIDI is a non-descript village, 33 km from Hyderabad, hardly a place anybody would look at twice. Until of course, it becomes known that it is virtually the satrapy of a certain Ramachandra Reddy, who owns 1,500 acres of land in contravention of land ceiling laws. More startling is the fact that Ramachandra Reddy's son, Sudarshan Reddy, also happens to be the son-in-law of Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister Chenna Reddy.

That was enough for leaders of different political parties to decide to storm the village on April 22 under the leadership of the Ibrahimpatnam Taluka Vyavasaya Cooli Sangham (ITVCS), an activist organisation. They were persuaded to postpone their rally by a week—but only after some very skilful bargaining by no less a person than Shashidhar Reddy, son of the chief minister. Late into the night before the rally, Shashidhar met Geetha Ramaswamy, an activist of the ITVCS, and offered to persuade Ramachandra Reddy's family to give up some of their land for the village poor.

But how did Ramachandra Reddy come by such a vast amount of land? The details are not known but the fact that he was the village patwari must have been a great help in grabbing land. For instance, land records were changed to show about 95 acres of government land as belonging to the family. And some of the land is reported to have been grabbed when its Muslim owners fled Hyderabad in 1948.

After the land ceiling laws came into being, Reddy tried to get around them by "selling" the land—to fictitious individuals and to people who did not know they had been sold the land. Several residents of Pulmamidi also complain that they have paid the Reddy family for purchase of land—around 570 acres in all—which they are yet to receive.

Last year, the Telugu Desam government nearly managed to wrest about 840 acres of land from Ramachandra Reddy when it discovered that the land had been sold in 17 fraudulent deals. All the 17 sale agreements were on non-judicial stamp paper, in the same handwriting and attested by the same witnesses, indicating a wholesale scam.

In September 1989, the joint collector of Ranga Reddy district, B. Rajalingam, cancelled the transfer certificates. But the family moved the Andhra Pradesh High Court which stayed the cancellation of the transfer certificates. In November, a fortnight before the elections, the Government filed a counter application but the case hasn't come up again for consideration.

With Chenna Reddy back in office, the case might have been closed were it not for a conscientious revenue inspector. Noticing that some Harijan labourers in Pulmamidi had been cultivating small tracts of land for many years, he enquired whether the land could be transferred to them. The matter was pursued by C.H. Paul, revenue divisional officer. But five months before his retirement he was transferred to the state secretariat. INDIA TODAY's inquiries reveal that the transfer followed a telephone call from the chief minister's office to Collector A. Ramlakshman.

The ITVCS then took up the case and complained to the National Commissioner for Scheduled Castes and Tribes B.D. Sharma expressing apprehension that the Harijans in the village would be ousted from their land.

Sharma responded by personally visiting Pulmamidi on April 1. He found that the Harijans had long been the cultivators of the land and ordered the district collector to make the transfer.

The order hasn't been carried out. Says Collector Ramlakshman: "It cannot be done as the cancellation of the transfer of the land by the joint collector was stayed by the high court." As for Sudarshan Reddy, he denies that there is any hanky-panky at all. Says he: "The findings are not true and were biased reports prepared when the Telugu Desam was in power. Only a proper judicial inquiry can establish the truth."

But time may be running out for the 95-year-old Ramachandra Reddy, his son and for the chief minister. The ITVCS says it won't rest until the family gives up all its excess land. And political parties are eager to embarrass the Congress (I) Government. Unless something unusual happens, they'll succeed.

For sweeping 1,500 acres of land out of sight will require an extra-large carpet, something even Chenna Reddy may be unable to supply.

—AMARNATH K. MENON

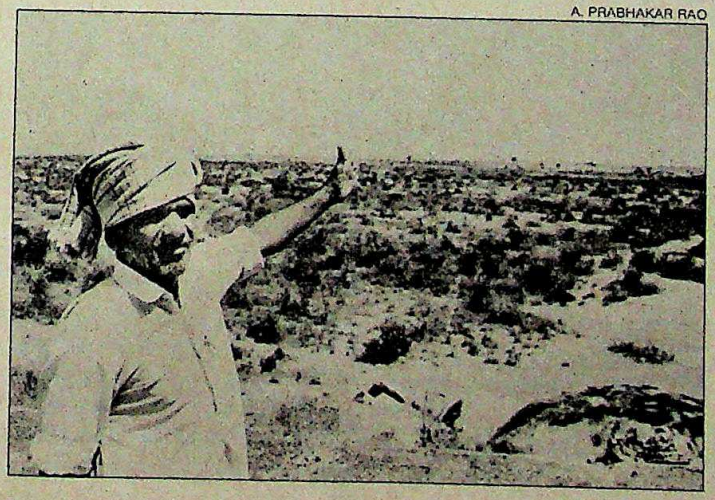
Shashidhar Reddy

Chenna Reddy

Sudharshan Reddy

In a blatant violation of the land ceiling laws, the family of Chief Minister Chenna Reddy's son-in-law owns at least 1,500 acres of land.

A. PRABHAKAR RAO



Sarpanch pointing out Reddy's land

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

REACHING GOALS

Pargat Singh

Guarding the goal. Dribbling, passing, converting opportunities and sounding the board. The pride of the country.

Eric Penniger, Kishan Lal, Balkishan Singh, Mohinder Lal, Joginder Singh, J. Antic, Rajinder Singh, Harbinder Singh, Prithipal Singh, Mukhbain Singh, Varinder Singh, V.J. Phillips, Surjit Singh, Ajit Singh, V. Bhaskaran, Michael Kindo, Mohd. Shahid, Pargat Singh and several others.

Each one of these hockey heroes wore the Railway colours with pride and served the nation with distinction.

All evoke nostalgic memories, reflect the indomitable will to win and inspire us to reach new pinnacles of glory.

In the sports arena the Indian Railways have an enviable record —winning over twenty national sports championships each year.

Every fourth 'Arjuna' awardee represents the Railways! This symbolises the fortitude, physical fitness and team spirit among the 16 lakh-strong family of Indian Railways.

Yes, the Indian Railways have an unbeaten track record as the largest in Asia, carrying 11 million passengers and nearly 10 lakh tonnes of freight over a distance four times to the moon each day. Higher productivity and greater public service are only a few of the milestones the Indian Railways are reaching.

The endeavour to excel continues unabated as the Indian Railways echo the sportspersons dream of 'Swifter! Higher!! Stronger!!!'

INDIAN RAILWAYS

CHAMPIONS OF THE TRACK

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DELHI

State of Doubt

Capital may get statehood

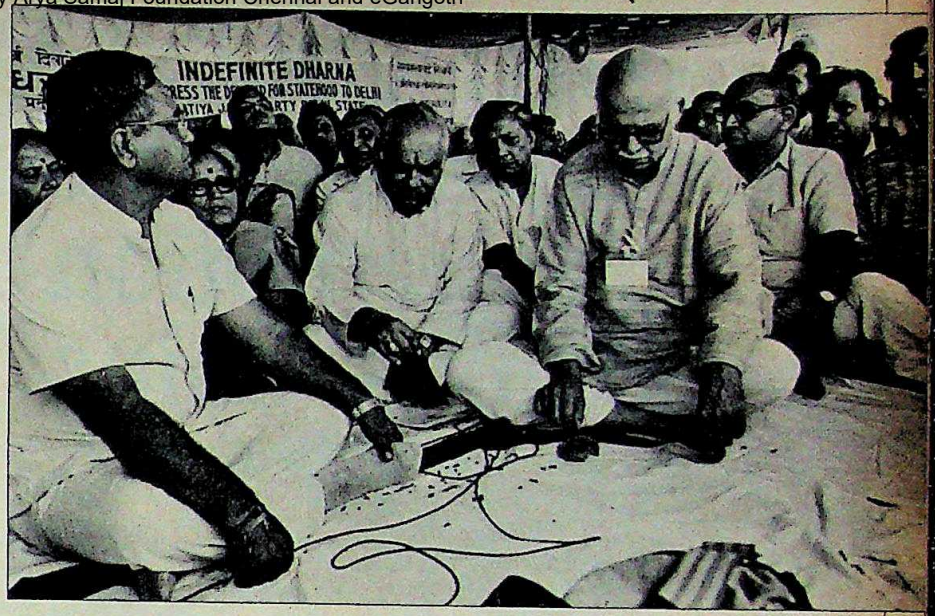
THE capital's Boat Club lawns—a rallying point for protest marches—witnessed another dharna last fortnight. The demand: statehood for Delhi. Led by BJP parliamentarian Madan Lal Khurana, the agitation was called off two days later but only after Prime Minister V.P. Singh assured BJP President L.K. Advani in Parliament that the Cabinet would take a decision on the issue soon and that the bill would be presented in the same session.

The BJP was euphoric. Said Khurana: "I'm confident that our years of perseverance and agitation will bear fruit and assembly elections will be held in Delhi by September."

The BJP's reasons, of course, aren't difficult to fathom. With three chief ministers in the northern belt already in its pocket, the party now wants a fourth one in Delhi—which is traditionally a BJP stronghold. Also realising that it is being viewed as a national alternative, it wants to demonstrate its viability as a ruling party at the Centre in the 1995 general elections.

However, the Congress(I) doesn't exactly share the BJP's sentiments. Complained H.K.L. Bhagat, Congress(I) MP from east Delhi and newly-appointed AICC(I) general secretary: "The BJP is just wanting to hog all the credit." And that coming from a party which itself did little during its reign about the issue—the last municipal elections were held in 1983—has an unconvincing ring to it. Ironically, the Congress(I) may find it difficult to oppose the bill once it is introduced in the House with Bhagat having already pledged "objective support" to it.

In the midst of this, the question of whether statehood will do Delhi any good has been pushed to the back burner. Political parties are more busy squabbling over who thought of the idea first and what the future structure of Delhi as a state should be. Said Viresh Pratap Chowdhary, Delhi Janata Dal unit president: "It's wrong to credit the BJP with originating the idea. It is essentially a Janata Dal commitment." Not willing to be left behind, a Congress(I) spokesman also claimed: "The Delhi Congress has been asking for statehood for the last 30 years."



BJP leaders on dharna: persistent efforts

The question that arises is, why hasn't the National Front Government been able to confer statehood on Delhi even though it was part of its election manifesto? Explained Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed: "The new Government had a heavy agenda. Each promise can't be fulfilled immediately." But it certainly made a beginning by dissolving the Municipal Corporation of Delhi soon after coming to power.

The BJP was suspicious that the Government was dithering on the issue when the President's address to Parliament as well as the prime minister's reply made no mention of the statehood issue. "That was when we decided to adopt pressure tactics," said Khurana.

The fallout: Advani and former party president Atal Behari Vajpayee met V.P. Singh on April 12 and thrashed out the issue. It was decided that in the Home Ministry's proposal to the Cabinet, the Centre would retain law and order while the rest of the subjects including land, building and development would be with the state.

What proved to be a thornier issue was that of the delimitation of constituencies. The Delhi Janata Dal suggested dividing the total number of last Lok Sabha votes by the number of proposed assembly constituencies (84 in this case) so that all the constituencies have roughly the same population. Though this formula found favour with the Congress(I), the BJP was keen on a straight division of the existing seven Delhi parliamentary constituencies into 12 assembly segments each, which would be electorally favourable to them. The issue hasn't been resolved.

The statehood idea has its detractors too. Among them is Jag Pravesh Chandra, till recently Delhi's chief executive councillor who feels that if Delhi doesn't remain a Union Territory, it will face a major resource crunch as it won't be entitled to the Union Government's largesse. But Khurana counters that Delhi will have a surplus of Rs 300 crore if it becomes a full state.

However, Chowdhary points to another possibility: "It has been promised that the bill will be brought in this session. But I'm not sure whether it will be passed too in this session." But if it is passed, Delhi, described by Bhagat as the "international drawing-room of India", will be up for grabs.

And if that happens the BJP is confident of sweeping the assembly elections. But Khurana remains suggestively silent on whether he aspires to be the chief minister. Chowdhary on the other hand is certain of the Janata Dal's success. Equally optimistic is the Congress(I) claiming that though it won only two Delhi seats in the last Lok Sabha elections, it polled the maximum number of votes.

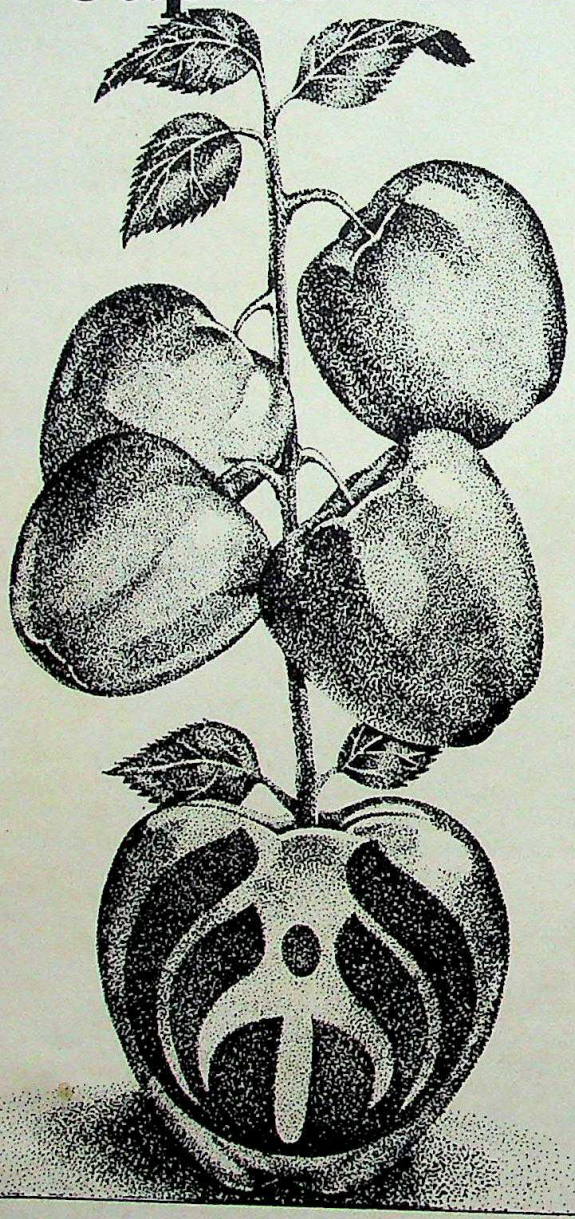
However, even as various political parties have been thrashing out the entire issue, what has conveniently been glossed over is whether statehood will bring any relief to Delhi's chaotic problems of housing, transport, civic amenities, traffic, ever expanding slum and resettlement areas, water scarcity and, now, migrants.

—SHARMILA CHANDRA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IDBI Capital Bonds
An attractive instrument for exemption from Capital Gains Tax.



- Available at par throughout the year.
- Exemption from Capital Gains tax under Section 54E of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Exemption from Wealth tax under Section 5(1) (xvie) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957
- Income tax benefit under Section 80L.
- Interest at 9% p.a. payable half yearly.
- At the investor's option, interest for the full period of 3 years can be paid in advance on discounted basis.
- No deduction of tax at source.
- Outstation cheques accepted and cost of collection will be borne by IDBI.

For further details contact the nearest IDBI office or write to Manager

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

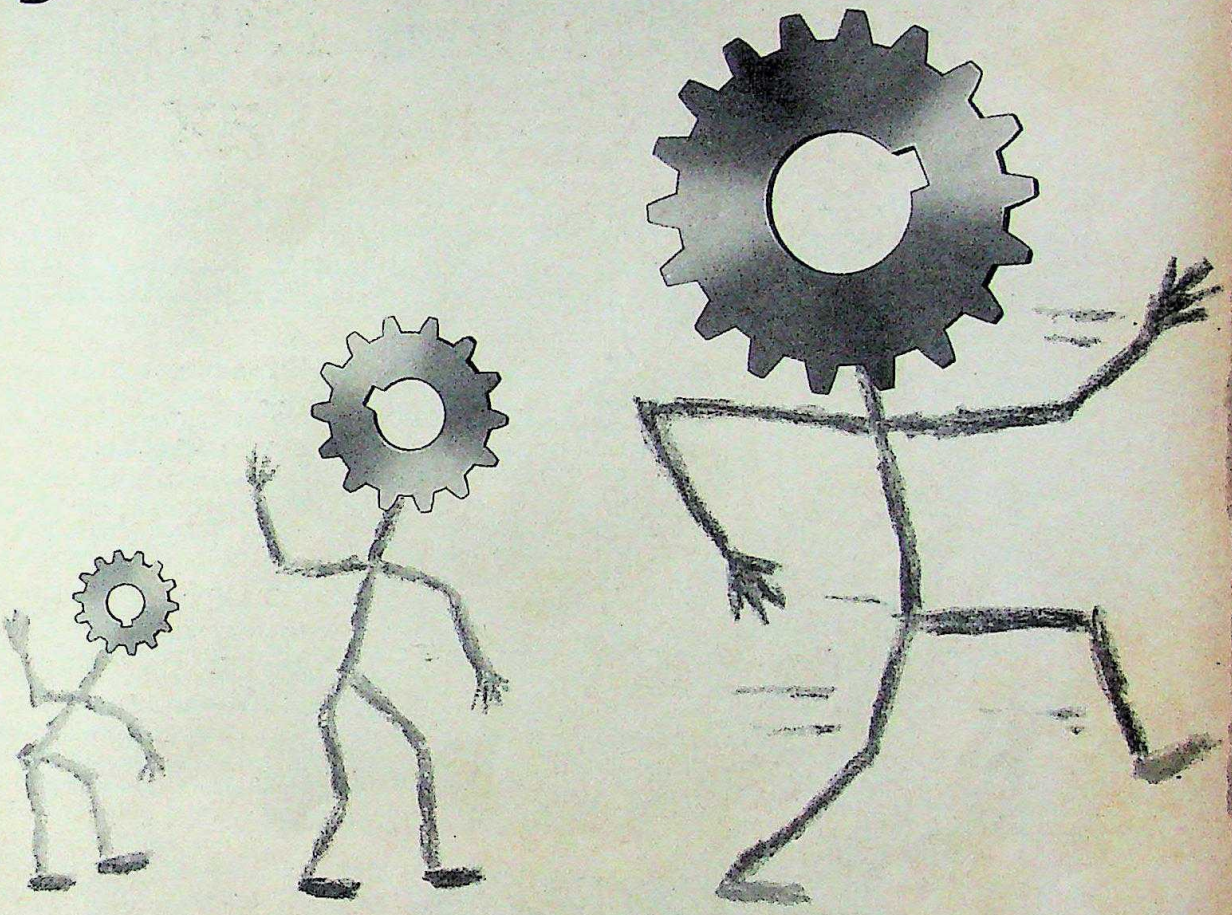
IDBI TOWER, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay 400 005.

Sobhagya-B/IDBI/89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

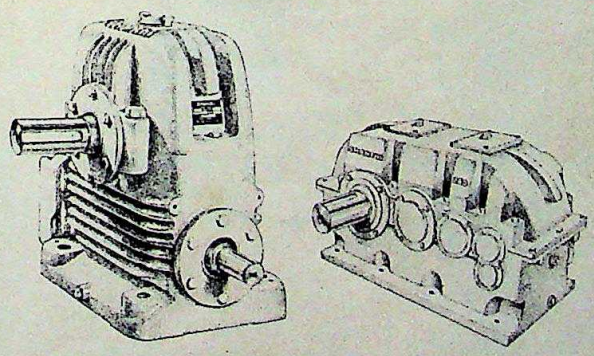
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

At Shanthi Gears customer confidence nurtures growth.



It is not surprising. Because customer confidence has resulted in increasing demand. And the only way to keep them confident is to grow. The result? our turnover has grown six-fold in as many years; we are poised to double it.

No wonder that Shanthi Gears is the first choice of diverse industries like Textile, Cement, Rubber, Steel, Coal, Chemicals, Sugar, Paper, Pollution Control and Thermal Plants – among others.



Our Product range: Worm/Helical Gears and Gear Boxes. Geared Motors and Tailor-made Gear Boxes.

Shanthi Gears

Turning the Wheels of Industries

SHANTHI GEARS LIMITED
304-A, TRICHY ROAD, SINGANALLUR, COIMBATORE – 641 005.
TAMILNADU, INDIA. PHONE: 0422-74241
TELEX: 0855-375 GEAR IN, 0855-302 SALE IN,
TELEFAX: 0422-74245 GRAMS: "SANTHIGEAR"

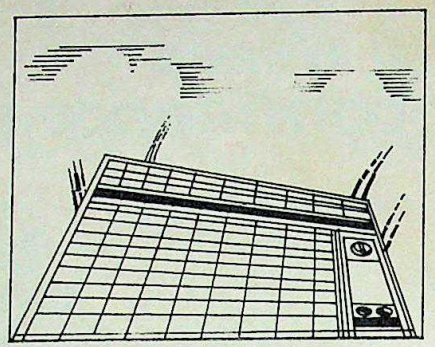
• **Bombay:** Ph: 6140168, 6123587 Tlx: 011 78157 SALE IN • **Bangalore:** Ph: 645018, 646332 Tlx: 0845 2061 SALE IN • **Madras:** Ph: 582444, 587234 Tlx: 041 7193 SALE IN • **Madurai:** Ph: 88564 • **Delhi:** Ph: 554287
Business Representatives at: Calcutta, Ahmedabad, Pune, Nagpur, Varanasi, Hyderabad, Vellore, Salem, Trichy, Cochin.

LINTAS M SGI 2417

Sobhagya-B/IDBI/89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Watch out. Sometimes brand-new airconditioners are prone to fatal heatstrokes

Can you tell the healthy from the sick?

The truth is that you can't. Not when ACs are fitted with ordinary compressors.

When the outside temperature crosses 40°C, the load on the compressor shoots up. That's when the compressor's quality is put to test. Can it handle the pressure? And for how long?

Questions that can make the owner of the AC not just hot and bothered but nervous as well.

If a compressor dies on you in the middle of May, you either sweat out the rest of the summer, or be ready to replace the compressor—with a cheque that runs into thousands.

Is there any insurance?

Yes, there is.

If you insist, in the first place, that your new AC is fitted with a Kirloskar compressor.

Unfazed by 46°C

No Johnny-come-lately, the Kirloskar compressor has held off the torturous Indian summer, from millions of homes, offices, hospitals, hotels and restaurants and kept them wonderfully cool for 18 years.

It takes voltage fluctuations in its stride, with an exceptionally wide operating range of 180 volts to 260 volts—even when a scorching, 46°C, outside temperature adds to its load. (Other compressors begin to groan at that temperature if the voltage drops to 180 volts.)

In addition, it has an *overload protector* that shuts off the compressor automatically during periods of severe voltage fluctuations.

The compressor also has a special *internal pressure relief valve*, that takes care of any other unforeseen stress on the compressor.

In other words, burnouts common to other compressors, simply don't happen with a Kirloskar compressor. Besides, it's energy-efficient.

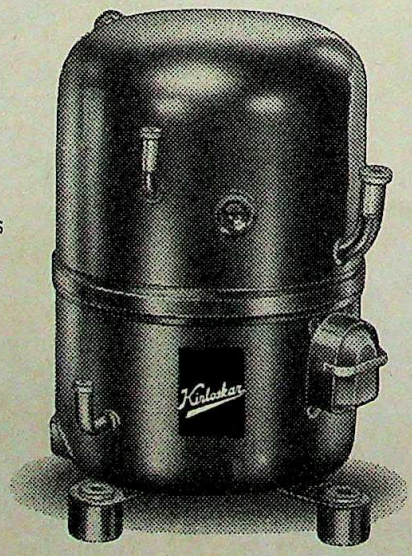
And this compressor is *quiet*. None of that rude annoying drone that other compressors can't seem to avoid.

For India's heat and dust

The Kirloskar compressor does all this because, although it is based on an American design, it's been adapted over the years to Indian operating conditions.

It can withstand the heat and dust of Delhi, the pollution of Bombay, the humidity of Madras and the erratic power supply conditions all over India - and still keep its cool for years.

A promise that keeps owners very comfortable indeed, in more ways than one, summer after sizzling summer.



Kirloskar

KIRLOSKAR BROTHERS LIMITED

The Indian summer needs the Kirloskar compressor

PRATIBHA 90-007

REGD. AND HEAD OFFICE: Udyog Bhavan, Tilak Road, Pune-2. AREA OFFICES TELEPHONE NOS.: • Ahmedabad 467258 • Bangalore 220327 • Bombay 466557 • Bhubaneshwar 50095 • Calcutta 723858 • Cochin 362447 • Delhi 5731626 • Goa 4148 • Indore 36427 • Jaipur 61434 • Lucknow 77147 • Madras 440548 • Nagpur 25850 • Pune 52748 • Secunderabad 833724

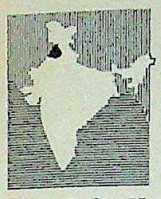
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PUNJAB

Foul Play

Khudian killed proves probe



THE mystery surrounding the death of the newly-elected Akali Dal (Mann) MP, Jagdev Singh Khudian, in December last year, deepened last fortnight when Judge Harbans Singh Rai submitted his 39-page report on the case, revealing some startling facts.

Khudian had disappeared from his home in Khudian village on December 28. Six days later his body was fished out of the nearby Rajasthan Feeder Canal. The Punjab Police maintained he had committed suicide. But following the subsequent public outcry, the Government had little choice but to order a judicial probe. This probe has now ripped apart the police theories. "I am of the view that he was killed," the judge has stated categorically in the report.

The judge has ruled out suicide, as the injuries found on Khudian's intestines were antemortem, and capable of causing death. The suicide theory received a further setback when on the basis of depositions, it was established that Khudian was not suffering from depression. The sarpanch of the village, Harjinder Singh, maintained that Khudian was a religious man and an upright politician, who had no cause for grief as he had won the Lok Sabha polls with a huge margin.

Moreover, Khudian had returned from Delhi after taking the oath in Parliament, the day before he disappeared. Judging by the fact that Khudian had not returned the keys of his room in Delhi's Punjab Bhawan, the judge inferred he planned to return to Delhi after visiting his constituency. Moreover, the Lok Sabha Speaker described Khudian's behaviour in Parliament as "normal". And Khudian's nephew, Sukhbir Singh, who slept in the same room on the fateful night, said that he showed no signs of depression. On the basis of this evidence the judge held "there was no reason for Khudian to commit suicide".

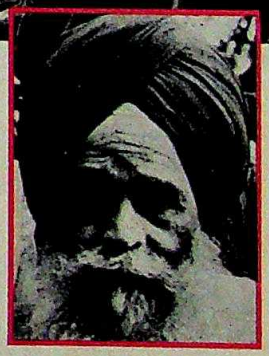
The post-mortem report, which found very little water in the lungs, further ruled out "wet drowning"—when death by asphyxia takes place. But the board of doctors could not reach a definite conclusion about the cause of death and maintained that Khudian died either due to the injuries on his intestines or due to "dry drowning" after receiving injuries (which the doctors state is very rare). The judge, however, ruled out "dry drowning", pointing out that the distance from the bank of the canal to the flowing water was not much. He concluded that the injuries were the cause of death.

But the mystery continues to persist for Khudian's killers remain unnamed, though the judge has dwelt on the possibility of his being eliminated by his political rivals. He has noted that Khudian had emerged as the dark horse to defeat stalwarts such as former Haryana governor, Harcharan Singh Brar (Congress-I), and sitting MP Shaminder Singh (Akali Dal-Badal), during the recent Lok Sabha polls. The judge also gave cognizance to the testimonies of Khudian's son, Gurmeet Singh, and Akali Dal (Mann) President Simranjit Singh Mann, who stated that Khudian himself had apprehensions about being killed by opponents.

While the judge failed to give a clean finding, he lambasted the Punjab Police. Noted the judge: "One fact which left me very sad was the conduct of the Punjab Police. An elected MP had disappeared and the family members allege foul play but the police adopted a line not very much justified by the situation." He added: "If the police are so indifferent in probing the death of an MP, what about an ordinary citizen?"

Some lapses in the police inquiry which he pinpointed were: the delay in conducting the post-mortem as the police insisted on waiting for the arrival of the state police chief K.P.S. Gill ("normally doctors performing post-mortems are not to await a particular police officer," he noted); the search of the canal, which the judge described as "mysterious and intriguing" as the body was eventually found at the same spot which the police claimed to have searched earlier. Adding insult to injury, the judge recommended: "The death of Khudian along with the conduct of the investigating agency should be investigated by some independent agency."

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



Scene at Khudian's funeral; (inset) Khudian: mystery persists

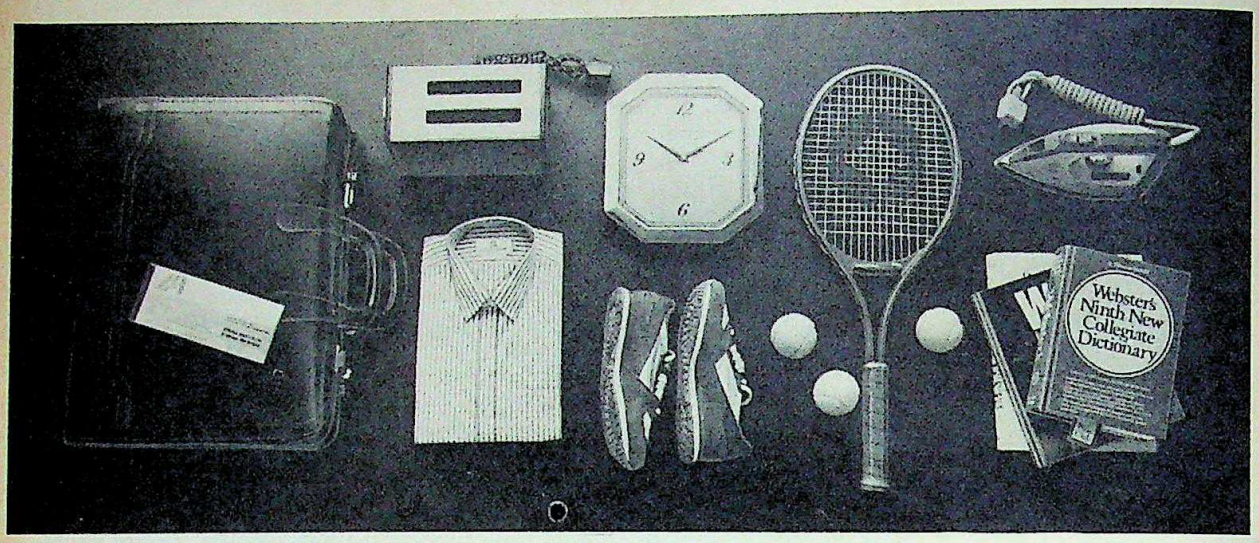
The report has undoubtedly put the Punjab Police in a spot. And should Gill be retained as DGP, the Mann group now has added ammunition to attack him. At the same time, the inquiry has widened the chasm between the Mann and Badal groups, as the former have all along been accusing some leaders of the Badal faction of having a hand in the killing.

Raj Bhawan sources now say they are considering handing over the case to the CBI. Even if that should happen, the killers are unlikely to be found. What is more certain is that the case will continue to create political reverberations in Punjab.

—KANWAR SANDHU

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



BUY ALL THIS IN ABOUT 2.5 SECONDS, PAY FOR IT IN AROUND ONE WHOLE YEAR.

THAT'S 3,15,36,000 SECONDS.

THE ONLY CARD IN THE COUNTRY THAT ALLOWS YOU TO BUY NOW AND PAY IN EASY INSTALMENTS OVER ONE YEAR

THE ANZ GRINDLAYS VISA CLASSIC CARD

WHERE YOUR CREDIT DOESN'T END WITH THE MONTH

ANZ Grindlays Bank

YOU CAN OWN AN ANZ GRINDLAYS VISA CLASSIC CARD EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH US. JUST CALL OR VISIT YOUR NEAREST BRANCH. AND IF THERE ISN'T ONE IN YOUR CITY, WRITE TO US HERE: CARD SERVICES DIVISION: 90, M.G. ROAD, BOMBAY 400 001. PHONE: 270007/270162.

ANZ GRINDLAYS MAIN BRANCHES: ☐ BOMBAY – 90, M.G. Road, Ph: 270162. ☐ CALCUTTA – 19, N.S. Road, Ph: 208346. ☐ DELHI – 10, Sansad Marg, Ph: 312004. ☐ MADRAS – 19, Rajaji Salai, Ph: 589131. ☐ AMRITSAR – Gandhi Bazar, Ph: 43217. ☐ BANGALORE – Mission Road, Ph: 220300. ☐ COCHIN – Bristow Road, Ph: 69582. ☐ DARJEELING – 49, Laden La Road, Ph: 2777. ☐ GUWAHATI – Fancy Bazar, Ph: 27018. ☐ HYDERABAD – Abids, Ph: 237506. ☐ KANPUR – 16, M.G. Road, Ph: 211462. ☐ SHIMLA – The Mall, Ph: 3025. ☐ SRINAGAR – Sherwani Road, Ph: 76935. ☐ TUTICORIN – 44, Beach Road, Ph: 20817.

SPEER 28 181 90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BIHAR

A Good Start

Yadav silences his critics

A section of the Hindi press in Bihar continues to "misspell" his name as Lallu (meaning simpleton). But if there's one thing that Bihar Chief Minister Laloo (pronounced Laa-loo) Prasad Yadav has proved beyond doubt in his first month in office, it is that he is no fool.

The 42-year-old Yadav, son of a landless labourer, had never occupied a ministerial office before he was sworn in as chief minister on March 10. Given his inexperience, everyone expected him to make a hash of things. A month later, most were changing their minds.

A large part of his first month was, of course, taken up by matters that brooked no delay. Yadav had to contend with conflicting factions in the Janata Dal while nominating candidates to the Rajya Sabha and the state Legislative Council. Within 11 days of assuming office, he had to obtain the required vote of confidence in the Assembly, present the budget and enunciate his government's policies in the governor's address to the legislature. In between he had to rush to New Delhi to help defuse the crisis caused by the resignation of his mentor, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal.

A series of violent incidents also claimed Yadav's attention. A day after he was sworn in, five persons were killed in Nawadah by a violent mob in a communal flare-up. Four days later, three persons died in another riot. Five days after this, three persons were killed when the police fired at CPI demonstrators in Madhubani. And soon after, five persons were brutally killed in a Jehanabad village by an armed gang.

Normally, all this would have laid the Government open to harsh attack. If it didn't this time, it is because Yadav was almost invariably the first to reach the affected spots and take prompt action. In Nawadah, he ordered the suspension of a magistrate and a policeman for not opening fire. At Madhubani, he suspended policemen for resorting to what he believed was unprovoked firing. Said a catholic nun who visited Nawadah: "This is the first time in 18 years in Bihar that I've seen a government actually implementing its promises."

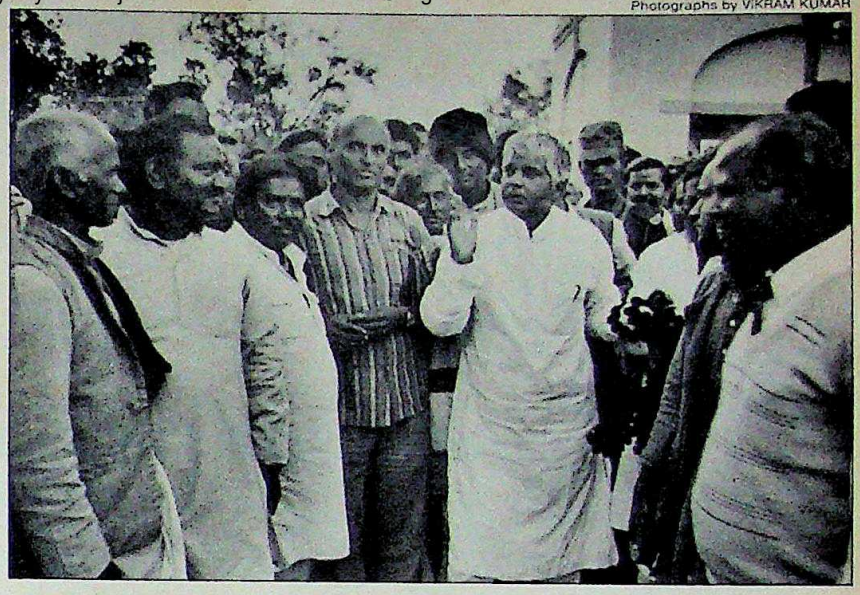
Yadav also gave ample evidence of his political savvy. When he visited Madhubani, he took CPI leaders with him and on his visit to Jamshedpur, he was accompanied by BJP leaders. With his government surviving on support from the left parties and the BJP, he couldn't have done otherwise. But admirably, he did not allow himself to be dictated to. At Jamshedpur, for instance, he gave instructions that the BJP delegation not be allowed to visit the riot-affected areas except during curfew hours.

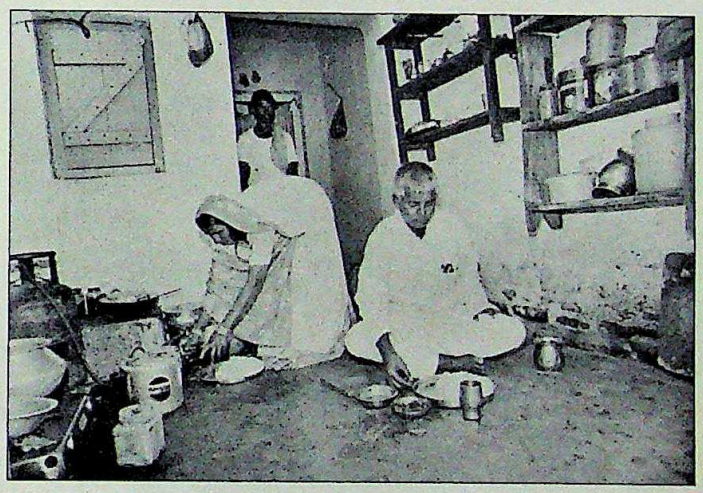
Amidst this hectic schedule Yadav also found time to surprise those who believed that the previous Congress(I) government had already made all the promises that could possibly be made. He declared his government's intention to rid at least one district of unemployment during the current financial year and announced diet allowances for pregnant women; those delivering their first child would get Rs 300. Old age pension is to be raised from Rs 30 a month to Rs 100. And unemployed youths called for tests or interviews by government agencies will be permitted to travel free in state transport buses. Whether these promises will be fulfilled remains to be seen. But at least they are not terribly unrealistic. Populist promises apart, Yadav's own life-style was aimed at showing himself to be a man of the people. His family continued to stay at the peons' quarters occupied by his two brothers who are peons in the Patna Veterinary College.

His detractors say Yadav is only playing to the gallery, that he owned two houses of his own and had really no need to live with his brothers. But to be fair to Yadav, it must be pointed out that he had lived in the peons' quarters even when he was the leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly.

Other ministers followed his spartan example. Agriculture Minister Ramjeevan Singh continued to live in a friend's house—without a telephone connection. Power and Irrigation Minister Jagatnand Singh chose to operate from an inspection bungalow in Patna—also without a telephone. Other ministers—Brishen Patel, Mangal Singh Lamaye and Ramai Ram—stayed

Photographs by VIKRAM KUMAR





Yadav at trouble spot (above) and at home

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

on in their small MLA flats.

The new ministry's good intentions were matched only by its inexperience. As many as eight ministers, including Yadav, are enjoying their first spell in government. The inexperience shows, for instance in the lack of rapport with the bureaucracy. Sometimes, it descends to downright helplessness. Lamented Ramai Ram, minister for food and civil supplies, welfare and transport: "I asked for some information on March 17 but till April 16, it was not given to me. How can we possibly work?"

But Yadav hasn't escaped criticism. His decision to suspend the director of mines on charges of corruption was initially hailed. But the action soon smacked of vendetta when Yadav accused former chief minister, Jagannath Mishra, of having shielded the director who happened to be a relative.

And when he got Ranjan Yadav a seat in the Rajya Sabha, there were protests from many party members. Ranjan Yadav, they say, has no credentials unless one can call his being the chief minister's friend a credential.

For all that, Yadav has certainly brought in a whiff of fresh air in Bihar, where chief ministers have generally lacked public credibility. But there are a queue of problems still ahead: frequent power cuts, the tenuous position of the state treasury, the beginnings of dissidence within the Janata Dal. Yadav's first month in office has raised expectations that he will be able to solve these problems.

But many are keeping their fingers crossed. A Janata Dal activist summed it all up when he said: "The beginning is good enough, God knows how it will end." —UTTAM SENGUPTA

BOTTOMLINE BY D. BUNKER

Shadow Cabinet

FORMER prime minister Rajiv Gandhi must be pretty confident of returning to Race Course Road in the near future. What else would explain his decision to replace his old kitchen cabinet with a shadow cabinet? But with the Congress culture being what it is, it has energised them into taking their role a little more seriously than shadow cabinets normally do. This firsthand account was obtained by shadowing them to their first meeting.

George: Sir, your shadow cabinet is waiting outside. Shall I call them in?

Rajiv: No. Let them sweat a bit. They are used to it anyway. They might think I have become a weak prime minis...er person, if I see them immediately.

George: But sir, they have already been waiting three hours.

Rajiv: Really? How time flies when you have so much to do. Let them in.

Buta Singh ***(slipping in)***: Sir, I am sorry I am late. I wasn't informed about the cabinet meeting. I will make sure the person responsible is jailed immediately.

Rajiv: Butaji, you should be home.

Buta: Yes. That's what I thought. But I hear that Dinesh Singh has got home. I knew it couldn't be true.

Rajiv: I'm afraid it is. I've changed home. I see no reason why you can't.

Buta: But sir, that means I am not even in the shadow cabinet?

Rajiv: I'm sorry, but the party blames you for losing them the election. When a giant tree falls etcetra etcetra.

George: Your cabinet is here sir.

Rajiv: It seems just like old times. Well, let's get down to business. You have all been given your portfolios. I'd like to know what you all propose to do.

Narasimha Rao: As shadow foreign minister, I plan to launch an all-out war on the government over Kashmir. When we were in power, Pakistan never dared to threaten us like this. Whenever I called my counterpart in Islamabad on the phone, I could hear him trembling with fear on the line....

Rajiv: That's my line.

Rao ***(sheepishly)***: Sorry. I must have read it somewhere.

Dinesh Singh: As shadow home minister, I have plenty to say. Home affairs is in a shambles. All of us have been asked to vacate our homes. This would never have happened when we were in power....

Rajiv: Obviously. You'll have to find a more credible issue.

S.B. Chavan: As shadow finance minister, I will attack this government's budget. It is a disaster. People are still talking about the ideal budgets we presented in 1985 and 1986 when we were in power....

Rajiv: And V.P. Singh was finance minister. You'll have to do better than that.

Vasant Sathe: As shadow agriculture minister, I think we have enough fodder to attack the government with. That Devi Lal is creating enough mayhem....

Rajiv ***(sternly)***: You are talking of *my* deputy prime minister.

Sathe: Sorry. I thought that only applied in Srinagar.

Shiv Shankar: As shadow minister for parliamentary affairs, I think it is a disgrace the way Parliament is being run. When we were in power, at least we ensured that distinguished parliamentarians like K.K.Tewary and Kalpnath Rai guided the proceedings. We had fisticuffs, walk-outs and general chaos. Now, all we have left is M.J. Akbar....

Rajiv: This is getting us nowhere. We need some real hard-hitting issues to embarrass the government with and all you people have come up with is zero. There is only one thing left for me to do.

Shadow Cabinet: What's that?

Rajiv: What I always did in a crisis. A cabinet reshuffle.

Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Life isn't formal all the time.

Say JU's and you've got an exclusive collection of T-Shirts / Skirts / Rumpers / Baba Suits / Bloomers

39-40, Sunder Nagar, Ludhiana-141 007 (India). Ph: 38222, 35376.
204, Sri Hanuman Indl. Estate, Katrak Road, Wadala, Bombay 400 031. Ph: 41

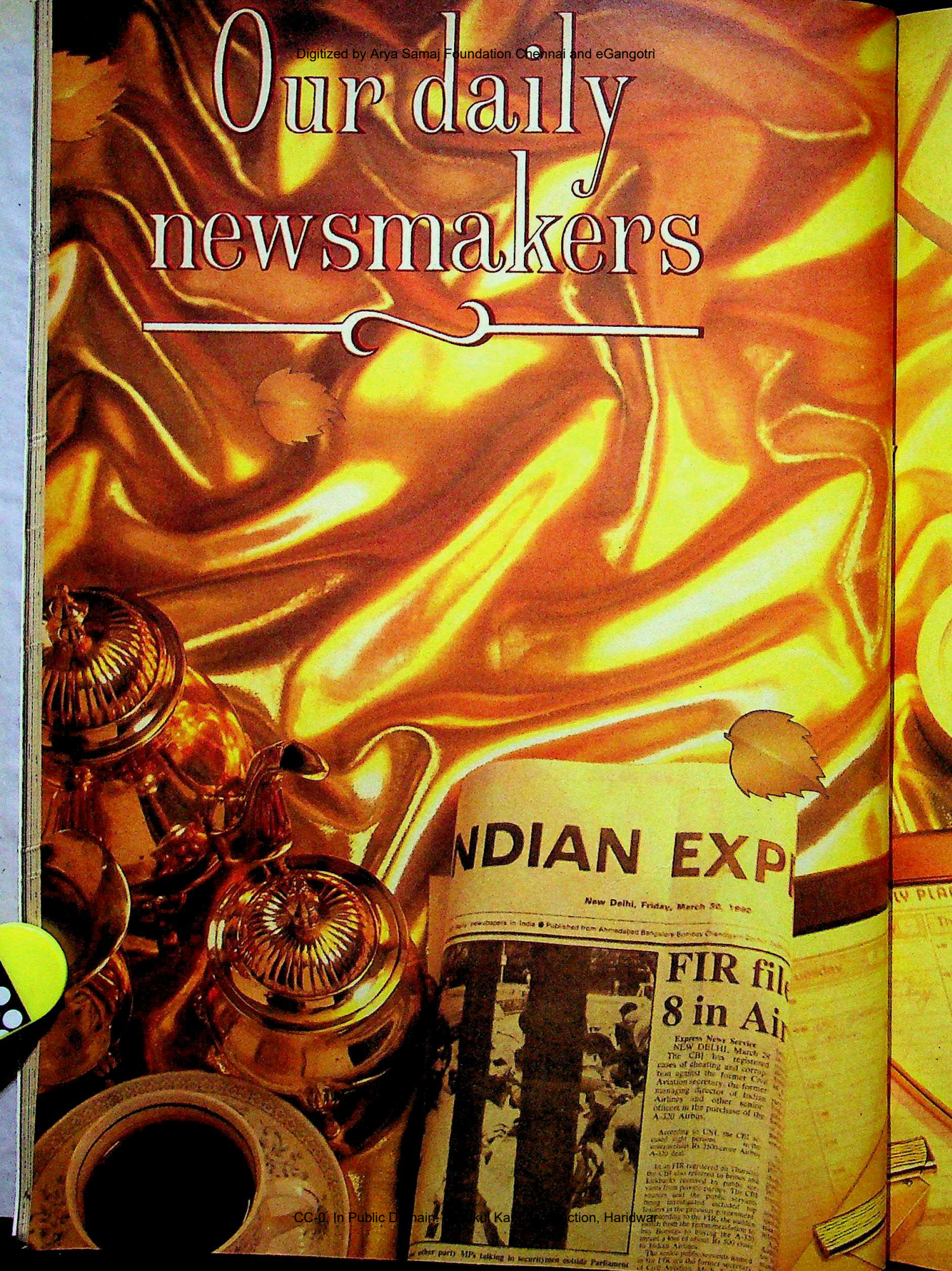
JU'S
KNITS FROM
JAIN UDHAY

FOREFRONT/DI/JU/2721E

Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Our daily newsmakers



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

We make excellent quality newsprint for leading dailies. And that means we are helping to make news every day! We also make the best quality writing paper. The fact is our company does have India's most successful mini paper plant based on non-conventional raw materials. And that makes us newsworthy too.

50 Years Of Great Going

Amrit Banaspati Co. Ltd. A single product company in 1940, it has grown to become a group with 3 companies and 5 product ranges. The parent company alone has an annual turnover of over Rs 250 crores.

The group's products are not only popular household names, but many are brand leaders in their respective fields: *Gagan* vanaspati, *Ginni* groundnut and cottonseed oils, *Uncle Chipps'* potato wafers, *Big Sipp* and *Golden Glow* soya milk health products,as well as newsprint and writing papers.

Great Plans For The Future

Amrit Banaspati Company is constantly exploring new avenues for diversification. At the same time it is striving to improve its existing range through new technologies and modernisation of plants and machinery.

Whereas the consumer is foremost in the company s mind, we are equally conscious of the importance and welfare of our shareholders, employees and dealers.

We aren't just resting on our achievements of the last 50 years, but striving to be even better.

50 YEARS OF

AMRIT BANASPATI CO.LTD.
GREAT YEARS. GREAT GOING.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Amrit Banaspati Co. Ltd.

(Amrit Paper • Amrit International)

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some of our frequent travellers cannot even read

Lufthansa

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

KIRAN BEDI

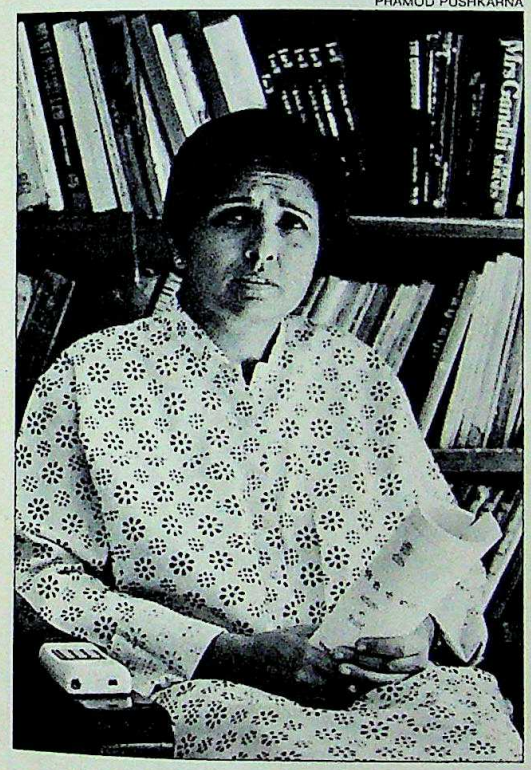
In the Dock

Senior police officer indicted

"EVEN senior police officers in the police headquarters just caved in and adopted an attitude of see nothing, hear nothing and do nothing, even when it was obvious that grave irregularities had been committed."

That remark by the Justice D.P. Wadhwa Committee is just a sample of its 65-page, scathing indictment of how the Delhi Police force, particularly the doughty Kiran Bedi, had dealt with the Tiz Hazari lawyers' agitation two years ago.

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



Kiran Bedi: a grave blow

In a report that doesn't hold back the punches, Wadhwa, a sitting Delhi High Court judge, found Bedi and her colleagues in Delhi's north district force guilty of all the charges levelled against them by the striking lawyers. The committee's major conclusions:

► While the arrest of Rajesh Agnihotri, an advocate, on charges of theft in 1988 was justified, his handcuffing by the police (which caused the Delhi Bar Association to go on strike) was illegal.

► The report found the lathi-charge on agitating lawyers ordered by Kiran Bedi, the then deputy commissioner of police (north), a week after the incident was "indiscriminate and unjustified".

► Worse, it declared that Bedi had connived with a municipal councillor in organising and transporting a mob to Tiz Hazari which indulged in violence against the lawyers.

The Union Home Ministry, which "generally accepted" the committee's findings and tabled it in Parliament last fortnight, is now initiating departmental action against the police officers—including Bedi—involved in the incidents.

That meant that Bedi and her colleagues if found guilty by a departmental committee to be appointed by the ministry soon would be liable for punishment that included even dismissal from service. Said K.K. Venugopal, the redoubtable lawyers' counsel: "It's a signal verdict and the committee has used its teeth to expose such police lawlessness."

For Bedi, 41, now a deputy inspector general of police with the Narcotics Control Bureau, the report is a grave blow. But she has lost none of her characteristic grit. Said she: "We knew we were fighting against a bias right from the beginning. But I'm not giving up now and we are going to fight back."

Bedi is now pinning her hopes on the CBI, which had also been asked to inquire into the same charges. If the CBI comes out with a report contrary to the committee's findings then she stands a better chance of hitting back.

The Delhi Bar Association lawyers, however, are not silent. Not only are they demanding that CBI case be withdrawn but they also intend to attack from another front. According to their present plans they will file criminal charges against Bedi alleging "criminal connivance, filing false offences and affidavits and causing grievous injury to lawyers". Says Rajeev Khosla, the association's secretary: "We are not going to rest till full action is taken against her."

With both the lawyers and the senior police officers still in a brawling mood, the curtain is unlikely to be rung over this sordid drama in a hurry.

—RAJ CHENGAPPA

SIGN POSTS

ANNOUNCED: The appointment of Lt-General **Sunith Francis 'Roddy' Rodrigues**, 57, as the next chief of army staff. He will succeed General V.N. Sharma who retires on June 30. Rodrigues, a dapper, outspoken man is one of the most popular choices as army chief.

APPOINTED: **Muchkund Dubey**, as the new foreign secretary in place of S.K. Singh who has been eased out. Singh was believed to have done a commendable job in countering Pakistan's diplomatic offensive over Kashmir. Dubey, essentially an economist, is seen as lacking in diplomatic finesse and style and supersedes eight senior IFS officers.

RESIGNED: **C. Rajeshwara Rao**, 76, general secretary of the Communist Party of India. Succeeded by Inderjit Gupta on whom Rao was relying heavily especially on ideological issues.

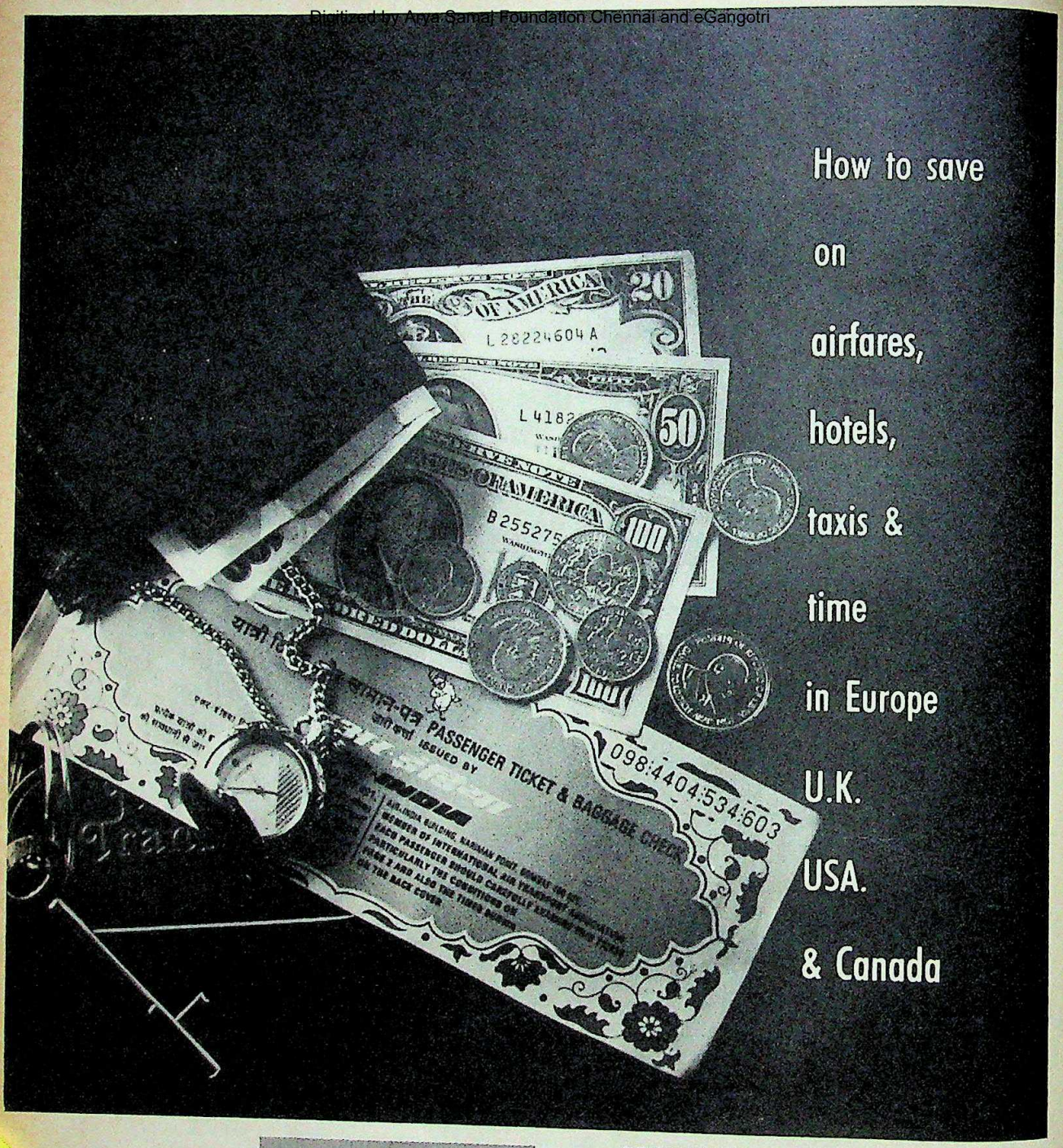
AWARDED: **Monisha Verma**, 24, with the Shaurya Chakra. Known as the 'karate kid' for taking on five burly Delhi Transport Corporation employees when they attempted to molest her in an empty bus, the award is in recognition for her bravery. Her expertise in karate enabled her to fight off the amorous advances and jump off the speeding bus.

RESIGNED: **Mother Teresa**, 79, as head of the Missionaries of Charity. The Mother has been ailing for some time and has heart problems. Her resignation has left a void that will be impossible to fill. The frontrunner among possible successors: Sister Agnes.

DIED: Veena maestro and controversial musicologist **S. Balchander**, 63, of a heart attack. At the time of his death he was in the middle of a fierce, single-handed battle over the authenticity of the works attributed to the 19th century Maharaja of Travancore, Swati Tirunal.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



EURAIL

BRIT RAIL

GREYHOUND

TCI

Special representative in India.

Rush me a detailed brochure on how I can book fast and economical means of travel within UK, Europe, USA & Canada right here in India.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Tel _____

(Staple your business card if available)

Contact your travel agent or: **Travel Corporation (India) Ltd.**, **BOMBAY** 'Chander Mukhi', Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021. Tel: 2021881/ 2027120 ● **AHMEDABAD** Tel: 407601 ●**DELHI** Tel: 3315181 ● **MADRAS** Tel: 868813 ● **CALCUTTA** Tel: 445469/ 449971 ● **BANGALORE** Tel: 212826/ 212990 or any of our 27 offices in India.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

NEW DELHI

Capital Loss

Vigyan Bhawan is gutted

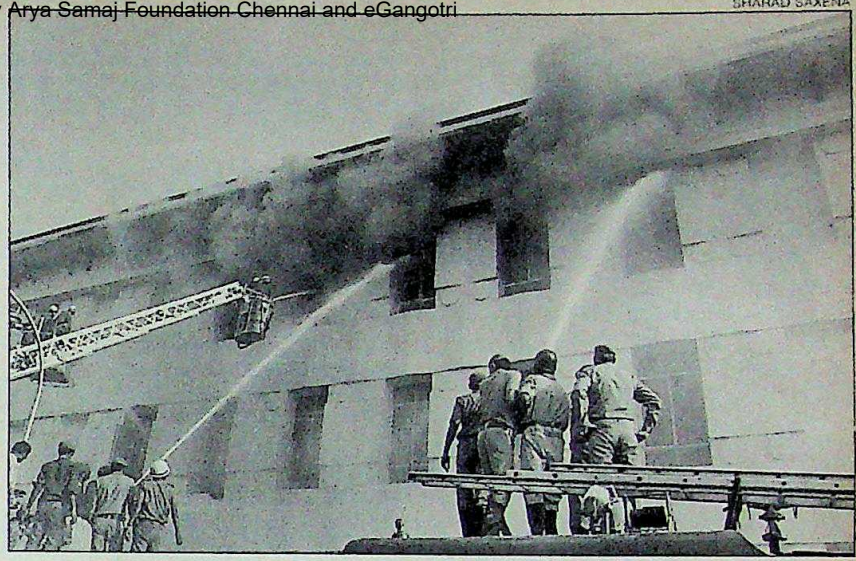
FOR Delhiites, this summer began on a blazing note—literally. After a major fire broke out in the stately Vigyan Bhawan—the venue of high-powered international and government meets—last fortnight, the vulnerability of many of the capital's swank high-rise buildings to fire was exposed once again.

Ever since the devastating Gopala Tower fire in 1983, such accidents have taken place with frightening regularity. Major fires at Siddharth Continental hotel and Ansal Bhavan have claimed many lives. Due to callous negligence of fire-safety measures, many buildings have now turned into incendiary traps.

Vigyan Bhawan was on the list of buildings—which includes many housing Union ministries—which had already been declared unsafe. As far back as 1987, the Central Public Works Department (CPWD), in charge of government buildings, was served a notice by the chief fire officer of Delhi drawing attention to the lack of fire prevention facilities in Vigyan Bhawan. Shockingly, nothing was done.

The result was that the building became a towering inferno on April 16.

SHARAD SAXENA



Vigyan Bhawan on fire

A meeting of director-generals and inspector generals of police was in progress in a second-floor committee room when the first sparks were noticed. Delhi Police Commissioner Vijay Karan, one of the participants at the meet, later recollected: "We noticed some sparking at the far end of the room. There was some smoke and all of us got out." Within minutes, the flames spread to other parts of the building. Huge columns of thick smoke loomed over the nearby Boat Club lawns. It finally took 36 fire tenders 16 hours to put out the blaze.

But by that time, almost half of one of the city's architectural landmarks—designed by the late T.S. Gehlot—had been gutted. And engineers are now debating whether it will be possible to retain the basic structure. The next morning, Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed informed agitated members of Parliament that a three-member committee would probe the causes of the fire; Sayeed, however, ruled out sabotage. Headed by the former fire adviser to the Government, P.N. Mehrotra, the committee is expected to submit its report

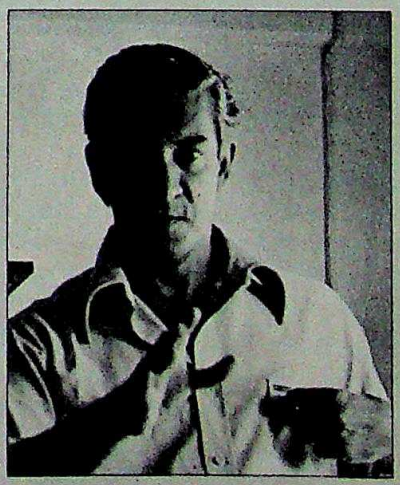
ARUN BHATIA

Under Attack

THE remarks quoted from a confidential report on an IAS officer are exceptional. "He is out and out a brilliant officer, very bold and dynamic, with courage of conviction, sterling sincerity, devotion to duty, unbounded energy and mastery of expression, both on paper and in discussion. No hypocrisy, no half-truths about him, an officer very different in the present-day crowd of compromisers."

Ironically, it is the same IAS officer, Arun Bhatia, who is now facing a chargesheet from the Maharashtra Government. Reason: availing of travelling and daily allowances while on a private visit to Bombay and utilising the media and political parties to further his own career.

Bhatia became nationally famous with his relentless pursuit of the Floor Space Index scam in Bombay in 1983-84, when builders made fortunes by fraudulently defying the urban building control laws. Predictably, he did not last long as collector of Bombay, and not much was heard of the officer after that.



Arun Bhatia: controversial

But suddenly Bhatia—who is presently additional divisional commissioner in Nagpur—is back in the news. Denied a promotion for several years, he complained to the Central Administrative Tribunal alleging victimisation. His complaint was upheld by the tribunal, which directed the state Government to ensure that Bhatia got priority in the next lot of promotions.

But instead of promoting Bhatia, the state Government has sent him a chargesheet. And the controversial IAS officer of the 1967 batch, who had launched a campaign against Chief Secretary D.M. Sukhtankar in the early '80s for hushing up a floor space index scandal, now finds that his career itself is at stake.

But Bhatia is known to be belligerent and combative, so it is not surprising that Mantralaya bureaucrats are keenly awaiting the outcome of the latest round in the ongoing Bhatia-Sukhtankar war of attrition.

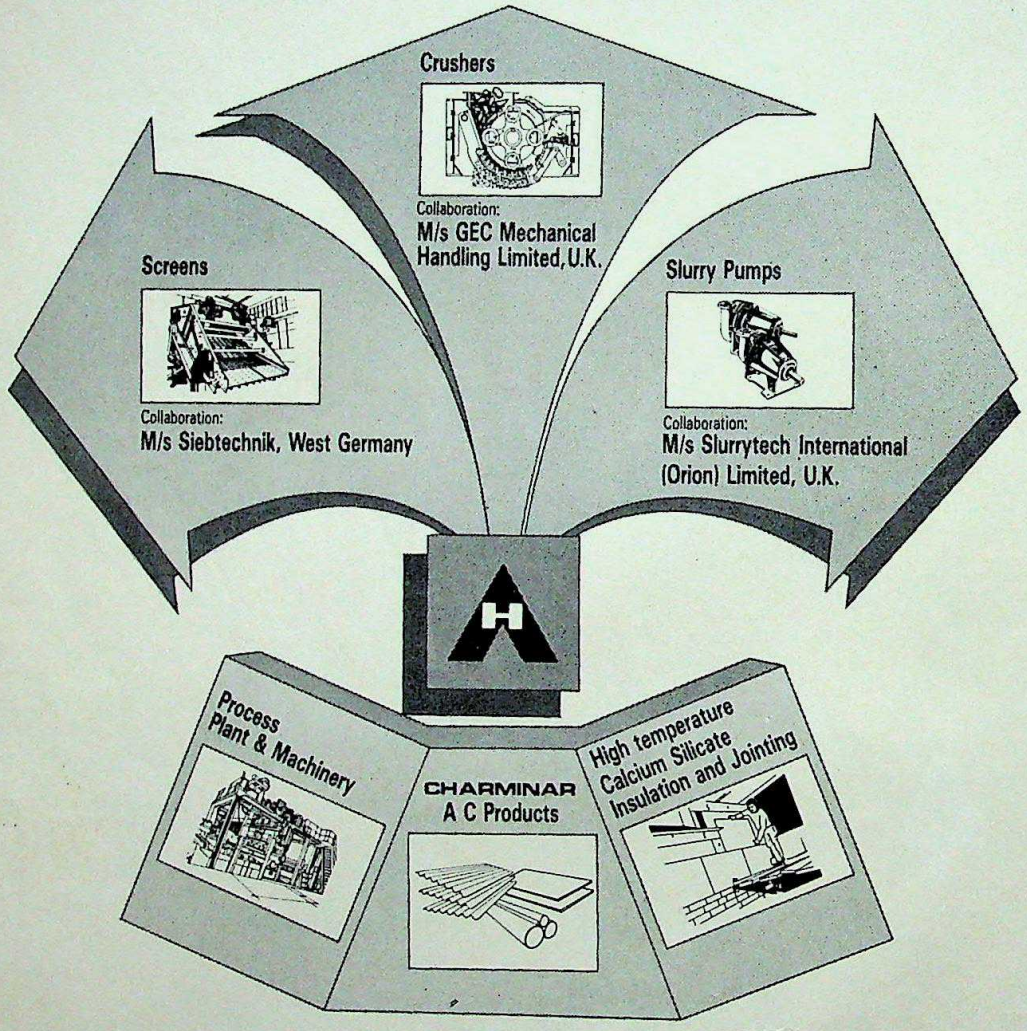
—M. RAHMAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Hyderabad Industries

From CHARMINAR AC products to a diversified range



...the changing profile.

Having achieved success in Indian and international markets in their traditional range of products, HIL has now diversified into hi-tech engineering products with world-renowned collaborators for manufacture of screens, pumps and crushers used in core sectors.

HIL's quest for growth through diversification thus continues.

HYDERABAD INDUSTRIES LTD
Hyderabad 500 018

ASP/HIL/9016

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

within a month.

Built in 1958, Vigyan Bhawan underwent its first renovation in 1979. Before the Summit of Non-aligned Nations in 1983, expensive sound equipment was installed and the building was elevated to a conference venue of international standards at a cost of about Rs 10 crore.

It is now evident that much of that money was rashly spent. As Delhi's Chief Fire Officer, S.K. Dheri, points put: "Extensive use of combustible material, without proper compartmentation, resulted in the fire rapidly engulfing the entire building." Indeed, wall-to-wall carpeting, wood panelling, false ceilings, and miles of electric wire had made the building into a veritable tinder-box. Worse, the central air-conditioning system did not have fire dampers and the entire building was not covered by a fire alarm system.

But all may not be lost if the Vigyan Bhawan fire shocks the CPWD out of its lackadaisical attitude. Police and fire service sources blame "red tapism" for such criminal indifference to fire safety in government buildings; in private buildings they blame the short-sightedness of the owners. Says Dheri: "The tendency of promoters is to spend more on interior decorations than on fire safety."

Dheri now proposes to 'seal' the unsafe buildings, instead of taking the owners to court. In fact, the Delhi Fire Service has already started putting up boards in front of such buildings, cautioning people about the danger of entering the premises. It is now planning to generate public awareness about fire safety through TV skits. Still, such measures will be merely cosmetic unless more men are added to the city's 1,300-strong fire service force. Says Dheri: "Delhi's fire service has not been able to keep pace with the overall growth of the city." While for a population of over 62 lakh, Delhi has 23 fire stations, for a somewhat larger population London has over 100 fire stations. The upshot is that firemen are often unable to cope (on the day of the Vigyan Bhawan fire, another major fire broke out in the congested Sadar Bazar area, pushing the fire service to near breaking point).

So, till a decision is taken on whether to rebuild Vigyan Bhawan, the capital will have to do without a conference hall of international standards. Already a host of high-powered conferences have been postponed or shifted to other venues. But the loss may also be a gain—if it awakens the city fathers to the potential hazards of its glitzy landmarks.

—BHASKAR ROY

UTTAR PRADESH

Ominous Signs

After Ayodhya, it's Mathura

AS the *Dharam Jagaran Yatra*—a march for religious awakening—entered Mathura last fortnight, the Hindu juggernaut, which started at Ayodhya, had reached its second target: a 17th century mosque located right next to the birthplace of Krishna. With saffron-robed sadhus and Bajrang Dal activists brandishing swords, trishuls, knives and handguns and shouting inflammatory slogans, a communal clash was the next step. And coming hot on the heels of a riot in Kanpur—when the *yatra* had passed through the city—the signs were ominous.

In the event, five persons were killed and scores injured and the ugly face of the rampaging mobs sent shock waves through the administration. Said a worried Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed after the Kanpur incidents: "In this hour of crisis, when the country faces external threat, I appeal to the fundamentalist organisations to refrain from activities which spark communal flare-ups."

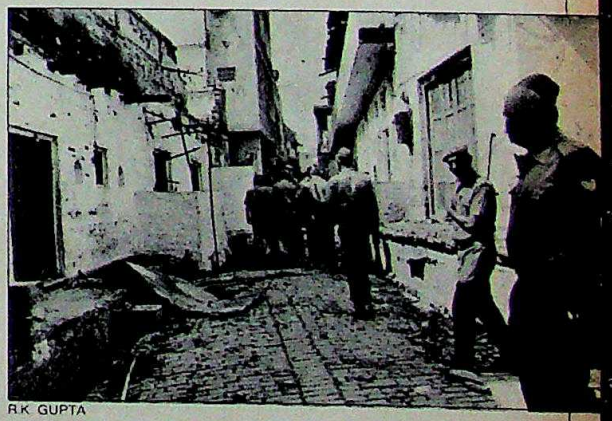
Mufti's remarks had little effect and a day later armed youth brandishing country made hand guns, knives and trishuls took to the street of Mathura raising inflammatory slogans. Vishwa Hindu Parishad leaders had gathered there to declare the 'liberation' of a mosque next to Krishna Janmabhoomi. The rally was stoned, sparking off another riot.

Police officers in both the cities are still edgy given the constantly simmering communal tension. Said Vikram Singh, SSP in Kanpur: "It seems that the people had been preparing for a confrontation.". Added Shailaja Kant Mishra, the Mathura SSP: "A lot of people offer prayers here. If an attempt to storm the mosque is made, it might lead to further trouble."

Their fears may be justified considering the increasingly militant mood of both the communities. In Mathura, dele-

SHARAD SAXENA

Unlike Ayodhya, the Mathura mosque is still in use and is in the middle of a Muslim area.



R.K. GUPTA

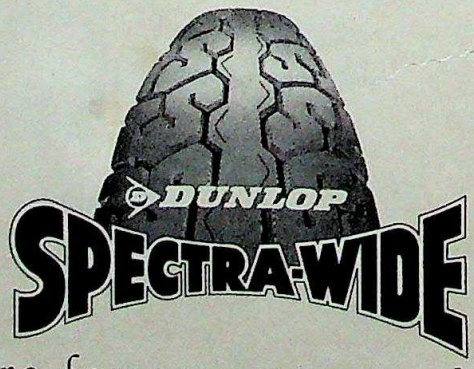
Violence in Mathura (top); and police patrolling in Kanpur: tense

ASP/HIL/9016

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

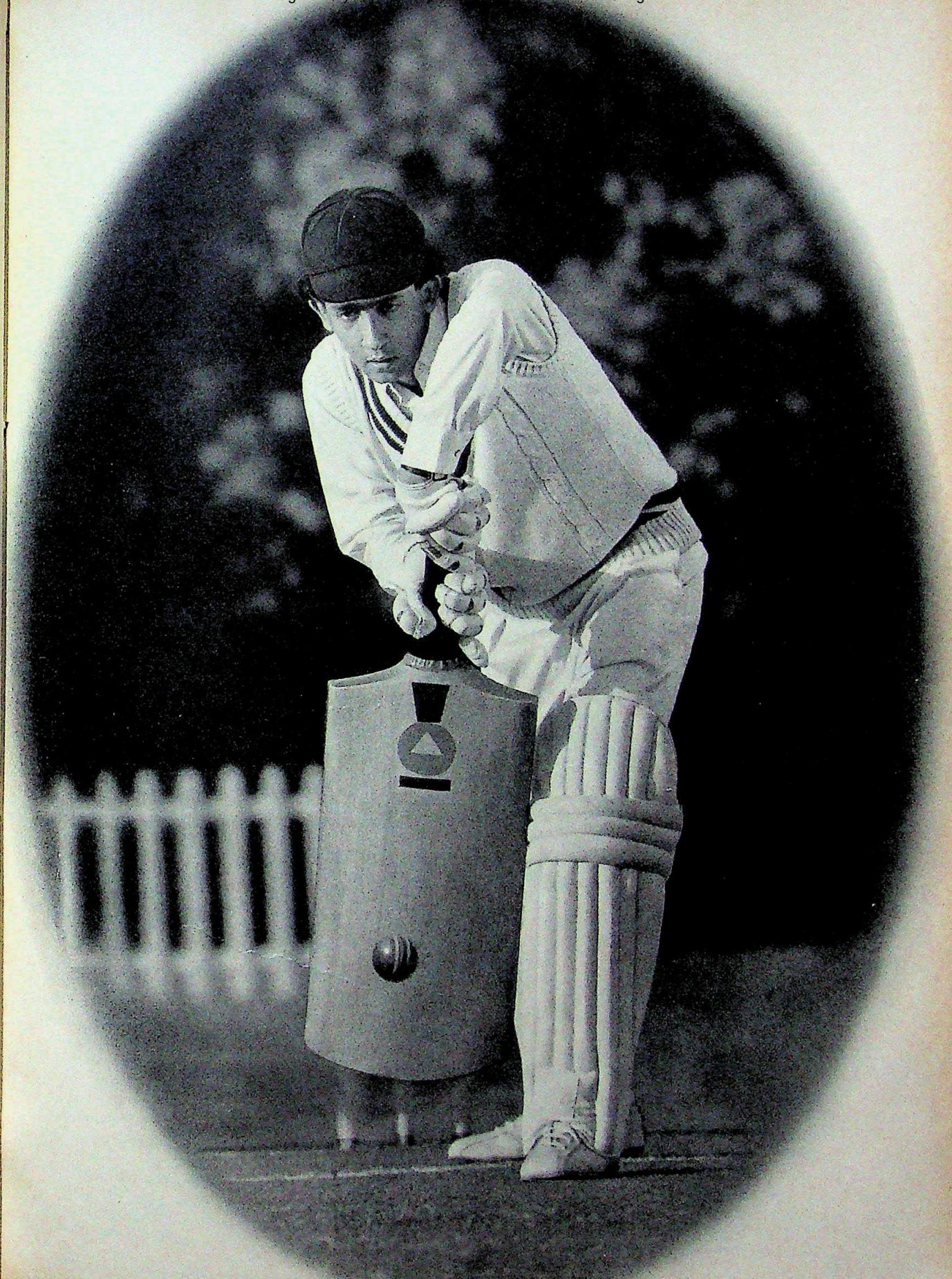
If only more things in life were Spectrawide.



The widest tyre for scooters and motorcycles.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Tunaya Dey Dt. 1910

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

gates of the VHP-sponsored *Dharam Jagaran Yatra* were heavily armed and the local BJP MLA, Ravikant Garg, was seen requesting the marchers to hide their knives and swords. Muslim passions were inflamed as the *yatra*—which began in Ayodhya and ended at Mathura coursing through the communally-sensitive towns of Varanasi, Chitrakoot, Bithur, Kanpur and Agra—was seen as provocation during the month of Ramazan.

The situation only threatens to get worse, especially if the Centre's inept handling of communalism and Hindu fundamentalist designs are any indication. Firstly, the Government granted Rs 50 lakh for the repair of Delhi's Jama Masjid. And then it threw open for prayers 40 Delhi mosques which had been closed for years and were under the Archaeological Survey of India. Asks Bajrang Dal's national chief, B.L. Sharma: "When we launch an agitation, the Government throws the book at us. Now how do they undermine the law about protected monuments?"

Hindu fundamentalist fury was most evident at Mathura where the VHP's new slogan is *"Ram, Krishna, Vishwanath; teeno lenge ek saath."* (We will take the Ram, Krishna, and Vishwanath's birthplaces together.) Equally militant is its youth wing, the Bajrang Dal, whose battle cry now is: *"Bajrang Dal ki hai lalkar, sawdhan ho ye sarkar. Yachna nahin ab ran hoga, sangharsh mahabheeshan hoga."* (Bajrang Dal is warning the Government. We will not plead anymore, but will fight a bloody battle).

With the shift in focus from Ayodhya to Mathura, the pressure is on Prime Minister V.P. Singh. Mathura is more dangerous since the controversial mosque is located in the middle of a Muslim area. Furthermore, unlike Ayodhya, it is still in use. Says VHP acting President Vishnu Hari Dalmia: "Our plan is clear. First we want Ayodhya, Mathura and Varanasi and then we will launch a national campaign against cow slaughter." Not surprisingly, the 16th century mosque is heavily policed now.

Despite all this, the Mathura District Magistrate, Ramesh Yadav, is optimistic: "We have the confidence of the local Hindu and Muslim leaders, the problem is the provocation from outside." But with the VHP clearly on the warpath in Mathura, some quick thinking is required from the Government to defuse the situation. Or it will end up with two communal time bombs in its hands.

—PANKAJ PACHAURI in Mathura with DILIP AWASTHI in Kanpur

UTTAR PRADESH

Dinner Deaths

Tragedy at ceremonial feast

ABOUT 100 persons had already finished their dinner and another 82 were enjoying the sumptuous feast. It was a *tilak* (engagement) ceremony of local contractor Mewalal, 23, to Sunita, 16, only daughter of Raja Ram who wanted to make the occasion memorable.

Everything went well till 11 p.m. when five boys started shivering. The initial reaction of the villagers was that they were possessed by evil spirits. Some of them even started performing puja. Within half an hour the boys lay dead. By 3 a.m. there were more dead than alive in and around the festive pandal in Raipura village on the outskirts of Basti town.

Photographs by R.K. GUPTA

Mewalal at the feast pandal; and (top) left-overs

By next morning, the district administration confirmed 64 deaths though witnesses said about 100 had died. Said Jagdambika Pal, former Congress(I) minister from Basti: "Many took the bodies of their dear ones and buried or burnt them to avoid post-mortems."

Local officials went door-to-door seeking help of private doctors as government doctors were on strike but by the time they could collect a dozen, most of those who had eaten had died. It was much later that the striking government doctors arrived to help out.

District Magistrate Mangla Prasad Misra believes that organic phosphorous mixed with the wheat—generally used to preserve foodgrains—was responsible. Said he: "The wheat probably hadn't been properly washed." But S.C. Gupta, superintendent of police, ruled out this theory saying that stray dogs fed with the same flour didn't die. Congress(I) leaders have suggested that the possibility of terrorist involvement should also be inquired into.

But these issues do not interest Gaj Raji, 45, Sunita's mother. She refused to believe that her husband Raja Ram too was among the victims and would not let the other women gathered there wipe off her *sindoor*. "Oh! He will be all right with so many doctors attending on him. He has yet to make all arrangements for the marriage," she sighed. Her two sons were battling for life. Said Mewalal, three of whose relatives died: "I don't know why god has punished me like this."

The banks of the small Kuaano river near Basti became a burning ghat. And even as the results of the chemical examination and official inquiry are awaited it was obvious that the memory of the tragic feast would haunt Basti for a long time.

—DILIP AWASTHI in Basti

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What did the Skypak Man say to the girl from Singapore?

"Don't kill me with your charm! I have a job to do..."

We'll deliver. Wherever on earth. SKYPAK The worldwide couriers.

Skypak House, Off M. Vassanji Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Bombay 400 059.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MANEKA GANDHI

One-Woman Army

The young environment minister cracks the whip and mows down resistance to her green crusade but in doing so treads on too many toes.

THE Union Environment and Forests Ministry has seen nothing like her before. And probably never will. In just three months, the slim, freckle-faced Maneka Gandhi, 33, has transformed the ministry from a whining mongrel, to a snarling watchdog of the country's fragile ecology. And wherever she goes, the peppy but brash minister of state in the National Front Government doesn't stop growling. Samples:

► At a seminar last fortnight, she discarded her prepared text and talked instead of the need for educating politicians on environment. Reason: "The other day I went to a meeting of some Janata Dal MPs and every single one of them had a complaint against me. They all said I am not sanctioning roads, hospitals, offices or something or the other."

► Back in her office, in a meeting with Health Ministry officials, she took them to task for not coming down heavily on smoking. When one of them said they were launching an advertising campaign against smoking, she asked him curtly: "Has prostitution come to an end because of warnings against it?"

► Later that evening, she shot off a stiff note to Mahesh Prasad, secretary to the Environment Ministry, saying: "Please remind the Rajasthan chief minister to provide funds for the bustard sanctuary immediately, failing which we would cancel clearance for the fertiliser project."

That inimitable style was a marked change from her predecessors like Bhajan Lal who usually indulged in more bungling than jungling. Or Z.R. Ansari, who reportedly slept over files for weeks. As Prasad points out: "It's a refreshing change. And though she likes greenery, she doesn't let any grass grow under her feet. Or for that matter, under ours too."

Yet her crusading zeal has landed her in more trouble than she anticipated. Her attempts to bulldoze some of the other ministries into doing things her way have been met with solid road blocks. Her vacillating stand on two crucial environmental issues—the Tehri Dam and the Narmada River Project—has seen some of her ardent supporters turn critical. Last week, when N. Routray was made cabinet minister for environment it was seen as a move to reign her in.

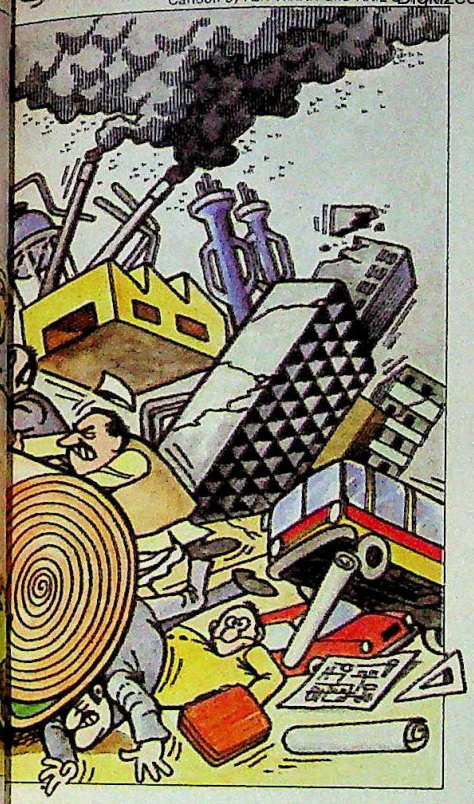
With a toss of her head Maneka Gandhi dismisses such criticism as "a backlash to my de-pollution methods". Refusing to be cowed down by criticism, she states simply: "I believe the Environment Ministry's job is to interfere with everyone else. We are not stopping or pushing a project. We are just ensuring that you do it in such a way that India is still around when my grandchildren are here" *(see interview)*.

When she took over as minister of state in January, there was no doubt about her credentials. Her reputation as an animal lover preceded her. And she could easily lay claim to being India's first

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cartoon by AJIT NINAN and ANIL SHARMA



green politician. The only doubt: would she be able to grow out of her *"billi-kutta"* image, as she puts it, and grapple with the multifarious problems faced by a hitherto spineless ministry?

A 100-odd days later, her performance is really a mixed bag. On the one hand, she has been a bundle of energy, taking interest in even small problems like the shifting of a hippopotamus from a zoo near Chandigarh to the Patna zoo. She has also come up with plenty of new solutions to some old problems. Among them: a proposal to make the weak-kneed Environment Protection Act into what she calls a "Heil Hitler" Act, with heavy penalties. Setting up special environment courts so as to "hammer one more nail in the coffin of pollution". And launching a massive greening plan involving industrialists in Haryana as a beginning.

She has not been afraid to bare an iron fist even to her own partymen. Despite pressure from Goa legislators, she came down heavily on 16 hotels that reportedly violated the guideline that no construction should come up within 200 yards of the shoreline. Almost overnight she got recalcitrant tanneries in Jajmau near Kanpur that were polluting the Ganga to clean up. Her threat: if the tanneries didn't install treatment plants by March-end, their electricity supply would be cut off.

Her gung-ho style has won praise from many quarters. Says Anil Agarwal, director, Centre for Science and Environment: "She has really shaken things up. She has been pushing hard to solve today's problems, and that's why she has been treading on too many toes."

Yet on crucial issues like construction of large dams, her initial ham-handed approach has annoyed her own cabinet colleagues. Lately, much to the chagrin of environmentalists, she has shown signs of buckling under the tremendous pressure from her partymen. Worse, despite the flurry of activity, experts say she lacks an overall vision to tackle the country's numerous ecological problems. Says Rajni Kothari, member, Planning Commission, who has environment under his control: "She certainly came in with a bang. But now even environmentalists are ambivalent about her. And she faces the danger of being marginalised."

Much of the problem, however, is not of her own making. The Rs 3,000-crore Tehri Dam, for instance, has been under scrutiny for over a decade. The Environment Ministry had initially objected to the dam on the ground that it was being constructed in an earthquake-prone zone. But in 1986 with the Soviet Union offering soft loans, it was arm-twisted into clearing the project.

When Maneka Gandhi took charge, she initiated talks with Sunderlal Bahuguna when he went on a hunger strike to protest against the dam. Then, her inexperience began to show. Instead of winning over Energy Minister Arif Mohammed Khan, she antagonised him by overlooking propriety. Instead of personally inviting him for a meeting to discuss the Tehri issue, a routine one-line notice was sent to the minister: "You are requested to please attend." The normally suave Khan was offended by the tone. He refused to attend the meeting and even threw rank: why should a cabinet minister attend a meeting convened by a minister of state?

Ever since, it has been a constant clash of egos. In Tehri, it is more than just the energy minister that she is up against. Mulayam Singh Yadav, Uttar Pradesh chief minister, is reportedly keen to get the project off the ground. And the opposition Congress(I) has also supported it.

She got a bit of her own back when an expert committee of the Environment Ministry ruled against constructing the Tehri project. But the Energy Ministry

BOUQUETS

- ★ Activating the Environment Ministry and making it a force to reckon with
- ★ Proposal for setting up environment courts
- ★ Massive scheme to green Haryana
- ★ Starting "Environment Friendly" mark
- ★ Giving more teeth to environment laws
- ★ Tough stand on tanneries, distilleries and Goa beach hotels
- ★ Banning export of wild birds and frogs

BRICKBATS

- ★ Getting embroiled in too many small issues and losing focus
- ★ Deep silence on Narmada River Valley project
- ★ Ham-handed tackling of Tehri issue
- ★ Antagonising partymen and activists
- ★ Lacking overall vision
- ★ Immature and brusque
- ★ Too much emphasis on the use of force
- ★ Increasingly relying on her bureaucrats

SHARAD SAXENA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Maharaja solution to finding the perfect washing machine

(And five more ways to clean up all your housework)

Whatever the house chore, there's a Maharaja for it. And no matter how big your workload is, Maharaja handles it better.

Washing curtains without tears

The Maharaja Washaid. A powerhouse motor that can run 3 hours non-stop and clean anything from lace to curtains. Choice of wash, rinse and drying timings and actions. **Special buzz alarm.** Unique inclined impeller for maximum cleaning. Double water inlets. **And castors.** All in a rugged, scratchproof steel body.

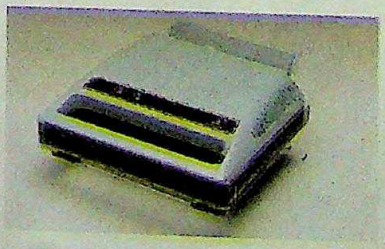
Not a wrinkle in sight

The Maharaja Auto Iron. Instant heating facility. 3 variable temperatures. Super-efficient spray attachment. Shockproof body.

How to suck up dirt you didn't even know was there

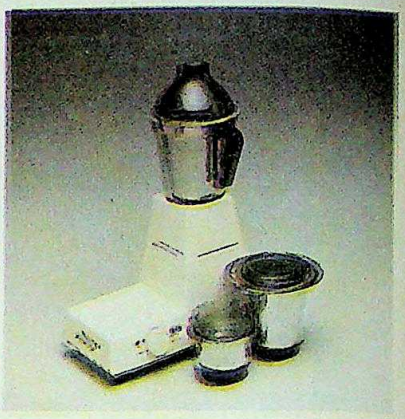
The Maharaja Vacuum Cleaner. 30% more sucking power. Eight litre storage capacity. Impact resistant ABS body on wheels.

Instant designer sandwiches



The supreme Sandwich Toaster. Futuristic design. Thermostatic auto cut-off.

The five-course meal made easy



The Maharaja Mixer-Grinder. Heavy duty motor. An incredible 60 minutes non-stop running time. **Three jars.** Unbreakable casing. Indestructible motor coupling.

The health wave starts here

The Maharaja Juicer Blender. A super-tough, super-fast motor and a handy self-cleaner.

Maharaja home products are designed with your needs in mind, to world standards. And we know, as you do, that its the little details that make a big difference. So the next time you're looking for a home appliance, pick one from the Maharaja range shown here. We guarantee it will be the beginning of a lifetime relationship.

For further enquiries :

Maharaja International Ltd. Post Box No. 2866
New Delhi. 110060

Maharaja
WHITELINE
APPLIANCES

They'll go through anything to keep you happy.

Anthem/MIL/796/2A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

persuaded the Cabinet Secretariat to appoint a fresh committee to look into the recommendations of the earlier one. That move by the Government has angered most ecologists. Says environmentalist Nalni Jayal, a director of the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage: "Three of the five members in the new panel have a vested interest in the project. It is almost like having the judge, jury and the accused."

Though she denies it, that move led to Maneka Gandhi throwing up her hands over the Tehri issue. Further, her silence on the controversial Narmada Valley project—in which she took active interest before she became a minister—has been deafening. Here too, she has been handicapped by her own colleagues. Gujarat Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel and the Union Minister of State for Water Resources Manubhai Kotadia are strong advocates of the project. And in his speeches during the assembly elections, Prime Minister V.P. Singh did indicate that the project would be implemented.

Maneka Gandhi claims she has been waging a quiet battle behind the scenes. Recently, she turned down a request by

EVER since she took over as Minister of State for Environment, Maneka Gandhi, has been in the eye of several storms. Last fortnight she spoke to Special Correspondent RAJ CHENGAPPA *at length on her priorities and stand on various issues. Excerpts:*

Q. *What kind of ministry did you inherit and what changes have you tried to bring about?*

A. When I came to the Environment Ministry, it didn't exist, except on paper. It was a grey area ministry. Nobody really cared. Now it is a ministry that genuinely does care and is not scared to do so. I believe the Environment Ministry should be the most obtrusive ministry and that's what it is on its way to be. At the risk of seeming unpopular or meddling, we poke our nose into everything. The problem is that everything is at panic edge. It's that serious.

Q. *You seem to have run into plenty of confrontation as a result.*

A. I don't see my trying to save your life as confrontation. Most of the politicians are unhappy with the concept of environment. They view it as something that holds up their work. And that means money. They believe that development is about just roads and municipal buildings. I believe that development is about making your life happier. The second rule that I made, which is irritating everybody, is the concept of afforestation as compensation. You want to cut a road through the forest, then give me trees somewhere else. The ratio is for every tree cut, plant 10, and do it first.

Q. *Are you buckling under pressure on the Tehri project?*

A. The problem is that up to now, everybody treated the Environment Ministry as an *angutha-chhaap* ministry. Okay, we are doing this now, just put your thumb mark and let's go ahead. But it's not like that anymore. In Tehri it was decided virtually in one minute flat to clear the project in 1986. Now five years later, when the Environment Ministry started opening the cupboard, they (the Power Department) said alright give us your appraisal. So we gave them that. Now they come up and say we have spent Rs 300 crore already. The way I see it, what is Rs 300 crore in the life of a nation. We have spent more money on Apna Utsavs, walkathons, marathons and that Asiad nonsense.

Q. *You have been quiet on the Narmada project.*

A. I am not quiet on Narmada. I have taken several stands not-so-publicised. Both these projects are too far ahead for me to do anything more. But I know that from now on, every project whether small, medium or big will come here first. Nobody is going to be that complacent. We have made that absolutely clear.

Q. *But with the demand for power growing, how can you put an end to such pressures?*

A. In India, no power plant runs beyond 58 per cent of its capacity. I believe instead of making yet another plant which is really disastrous, what you should do first is to go in for conservation—that is increase your 58 per cent to 90 per cent. Your power problem would be solved right there.

Secondly, I am appalled at the fact that the Department of Non-Conventional Energy Sources should be like a stepchild of the Union Energy Ministry. If I had something to do with it, I would give it pride of place in my ministry. In fact I have my greedy, hot little eyes on that department.

Q. *What do you think is the basic problem?*

A. I still haven't tackled the heart of it, which is the lunatic planning going on. An MP says he wants a petrochemical plant, even if the area has the richest forest belt. And that's the end of the green belt. Now they are going all out to give the backward areas forward things. What you are doing is Amethi-ising the whole country. That has to stop.

SHARAD SAXENA

INTERVIEW

"We have to stop this Amethi-ising of the entire country."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Good night glow.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

It's the end of a perfect day.

The food was good. The service, just excellent. Even the telephones worked better than any you've ever heard in Calcutta.

And coming away from the city centre was so quick and easy.

Now, surrounded by the warm tranquility of your room, you remember how, after dinner, you discovered that thoughtful little liqueur, tucked away in the mini-bar.

What better way is there to say, "Good night".

Taj Bengal
Calcutta India

A whole new experience.

THE TAJ GROUP OF HOTELS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ABU DHABI · AL-FUJAIRAH · AMMAN · ATHENS · BAGHDAD · BAHRAIN · BANGKOK · BOMBAY · CAIRO · COLOMBO

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WE'RE FLYING NEW COLOURS

This year we'll be turning heads all over the world with our new uniforms.

A new set of clothes may seem like a surface improvement. But we're very fortunate in that, with our crew, that's really all we needed!

طيران الخليج

GULF AIR

GOLDEN FALCON SERVICE

A TRULY CIVILISED WAY TO FLY.

dacunha GA 1 90

SHIRAZ · SHARJAH · SANAA · SALALAH · RIYADH · RAS AL KHAIMAH · PARIS · NAIROBI · MUSCAT · MANILA · LONDON · KUWAIT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

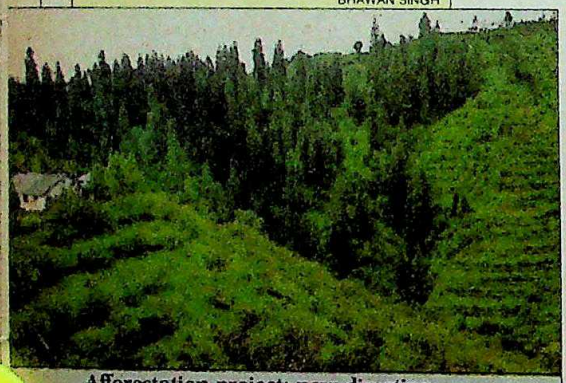
Narmada project authorities for forest land to rehabilitate displaced tribals in the area. But environmentalists are far from reassured.

Despite these setbacks, she has not lost her sense of humour. Recently when V.P. Singh, who also held the environment portfolio till last week, suggested she screen educational films on environment for MPs, she shot back: "Good idea. Let's start with one on Tehri." Singh wasn't amused.

Realising that she was getting bogged down with Tehri and Narmada, of late Maneka Gandhi has been making a determined bid to broaden her horizon. She has now set her eyes on revamping the national wasteland development project. Shunning the usual "we give money, you plant trees" approach, the new minister has initiated a programme in Haryana that she hopes will become a model for the rest of the country. Industries, among others, are being requested to adopt villages and spend money in greening over 3 lakh hectares of land in a state that has the lowest forest cover in the country. Another bright idea that may catch on is starting what she calls the "Environment Friendly" mark. Similar to the Indian Standards Institution (ISI) mark, this stamp of approval will be given to those products that confirm to the environment laws in the country. Says she: "I am just teaching people on how to save themselves."

Her tough stand and innovative solutions have won much praise...

BHAWAN SINGH



Afforestation project: new direction

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

Ganga pollution: stern action

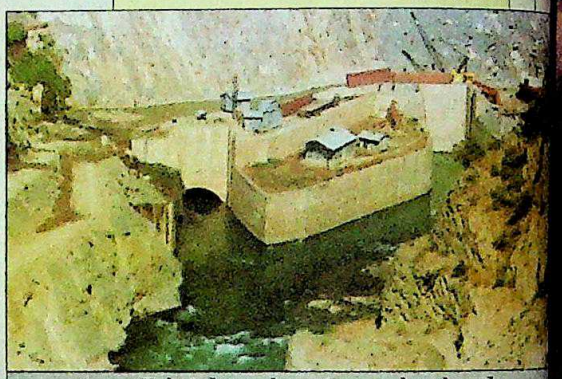
YET her actions have alienated many. She can be brusque with her staff and subject them to a real tongue-lashing, though as one official observed: "Her bark is worse than her bite." There is also a growing feeling among environmentalists that she is "now being more tolerated, than listened to". With Kashmir and Punjab on top of the priorities' list, it's clear the new Government would not want more trouble in the form of Narmada and Tehri on its hands. As one official put it: "The policy is to let sleeping dogs lie."

Her lackadaisical approach on these issues has, however, got the goat of most activists. They are now beginning to head on a confrontationist course with the minister. And this could erode her credibility considerably. As Shekar Singh of Kalpavriksh, a voluntary organisation in Delhi, says: "It is the first time we have a minister who really cares for environment. But she doesn't seem to know how to get ahead with her task and she is increasingly falling a victim to bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, others have viewed the strengthening of legislation and environmental courts as signs of despair. As Kothari says: "It's almost like admitting that the official machinery is incapable of handling the problem." Moreover, they point out that too much litigation would lead to endless blockages of development projects and this could antagonise most other ministries. As a senior Environment Ministry official admitted: "It may end up being counter-productive. And she would further isolate herself."

Narmada project: deafening silence

RAGHU RAI



Tehri dam: throwing up her hands

...but on certain key issues she has fallen short of expectations.

There is also a feeling that she is now avoiding controversial issues and concentrating on clinical ones, like law on wildlife, that are easier to implement. Says an official: "There is too much tokenism, and she is still to come to grips with the root of the ecological problem."

But despite these drawbacks, few ecologists would like to see her go. Her worst detractors (including Energy Ministry officials) are convinced of her commitment to the cause. And they admit that under her the Environment Ministry is now a powerful force to reckon with. As Jayal says: "She will certain not go out with a whimper."

—RAJ CHENGAPPA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CLOSE YOUR EYES...

...HEAR THE DIFFERENCE

Introducing

INDU FERRO DYNAMIC S

The superior, hi-fi audio cassette.

Indu compact cassettes. With a fine ferric oxide coating for unsurpassed recording clarity, exceptional dynamics and balance.

Indu tapes. A sound decision you can make with your eyes closed.

Now Indu makes music magic.

इन्दु
INDU

Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd.
(A Govt. of India Enterprise)
Registered Office : Indunagar, Udhagamandalam 643 005.
Marketing Headquarters : Bali Towers, 1, Abdul Razak Street, Saidapet, Madras 600 015.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Pratibha: BLR: HPF: 6489 A

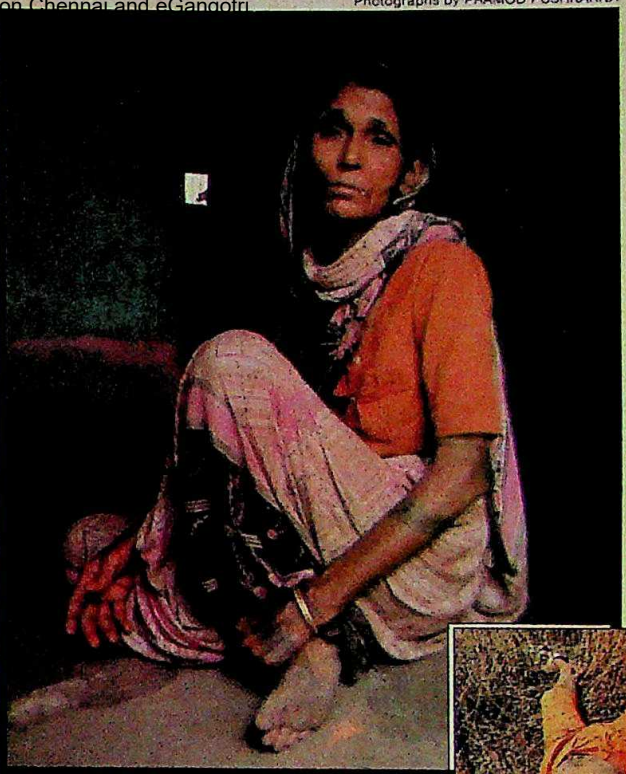
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BIHAR

Altar of Death

Inter-caste marriages invite increasing persecution, violence and murder

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

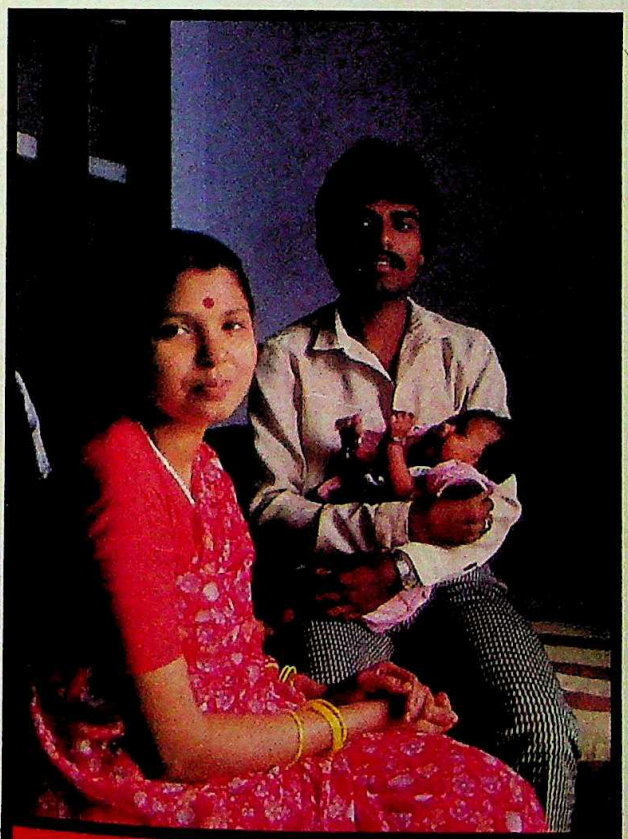


Rani Devi; (inset) Satyendra's body

The love story of Satyendra, a poor man, came to a gruesome end when he was dragged and beheaded by his wealthy wife's angry relatives.

CASTE has long been an obstacle to marriages throughout the country. But in Bihar, so complete is the opposition to inter-caste marriages, that virtually every couple attempting to break the barrier has a harrowing tale to narrate; a tale of social ostracism, mental and physical harassment, and violence that at times amounts to cold-blooded murder.

Take Satyendra Singh, 24, and Mira Kumari, 21. Both were Rajputs, but while Satyendra was a poor resident of Loyabad in Dhanbad district, Mira came from a wealthy family. A year and a half ago they secretly wed in Asansol, West Bengal. On returning to Loyabad, they informed the local police about their marriage. Thus ended their short-lived marital bliss. The bride was detained for three days in the *thana* and then forcibly sent to her parents' house. In one of her letters to Satyendra, Mira wrote that her family "washed off my *sindoor* with a bucketful of water". Another letter alleged that her family had given a bribe of Rs 35,000 to the *thana*.



Gokul and Anita with their son

Relatives of Anita, a Brahmin, broke her arm and scarred her face for the "crime" of marrying Gokul, from a "backward" caste.

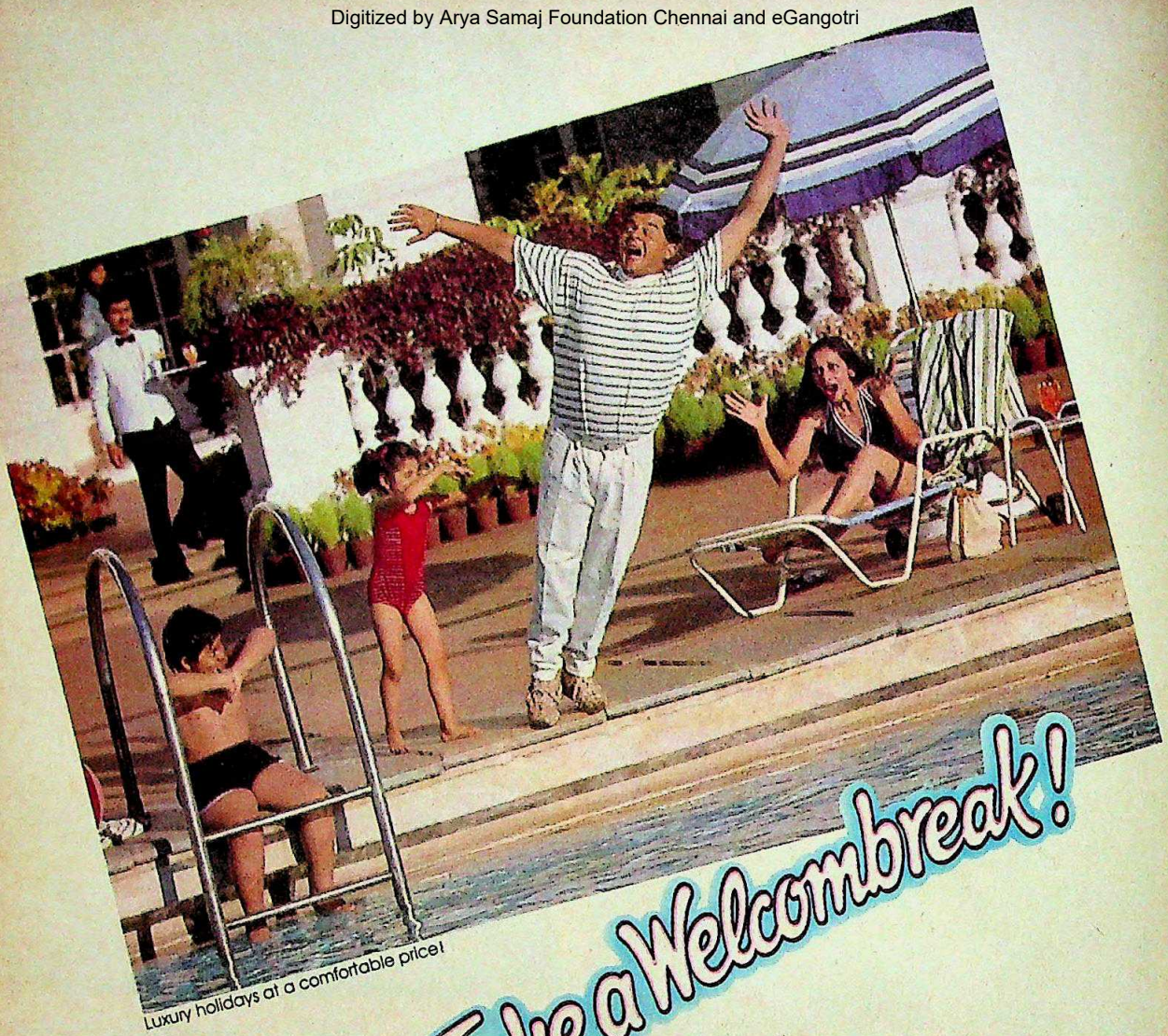
During the following one and a half years, Satyendra ran from pillar to post, demanding unification with his wife. He filed a case against Mira's family but to no avail. Meanwhile, Mira was packed off to Jehanabad to her uncle's house from where she smuggled out several letters to her husband alleging brutal beatings and coercion to remarry.

Their love story came to a gruesome end on February 8 this year. According to police investigations, Mira's brothers Vijay Singh, Ajai Singh and four accomplices dragged Satyendra to a lonely spot, beheaded him with a sharp instrument and then burned his head to avoid identification. It was only because Mira's name was tattooed on his left arm that his body was eventually identified.

Satyendra's mother Rani Devi charges: "When I heard that my son had been dragged away, I rushed to the *thana*. But the officer-in-charge used vile language and threw me out. He was obviously in league with the criminals." Since the crime took place, local residents have in fact organised several demonstrations against the officer-in-charge Yogendra Chowdhary. Moreover, the police delayed arresting Mira's father and brothers for a month, by which time considerable public anger had built up. Though Chowdhary denies any involvement in the crime, his views on marriage are revealing. "I don't recognise this marriage," he says. "Any marriage

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Pamper your family with a quick, getaway holiday—in the luxury of India's best hotels!

There's more to it! Welcombreak also gets you very attractive discounts on food, services and facilities; with a host of add-ons that make a holiday complete.

It's so convenient! It's a bother-free holiday. Bookings are simple and instantaneous—just a phone call away!*

So reach for it! And take that luxury holiday. Take a Welcombreak!

Welcombreak rates for a Short Break (2 nights, 3 days):

Place	Welcomgroup Hotel		Rs.
Agra	Mughal Sheraton		1299/-
Andamans	Bay Island (Long Break) (Inclusive of all meals)		3200/-
Aurangabad	Rama International (Inclusive of Continental breakfast)		1055/-
Bangalore	Windsor Manor Sheraton		1199/-
Baroda	Vadodara		999/-
Bombay	SeaRock Sheraton (Inclusive of American breakfast)	Weekend:	1540/-
		Weekday:	1640/-
Jodhpur	Umaid Bhawan Palace		999/-

- Rates listed are for 2 people sharing a double room.
- Free accommodation for 2 children below 12 years, in the same room. An extra bed at Rs. 150/- per day.
- Packages available are Mini Break (1 night, 2 days), Short Break (2 nights, 3 days), Long Break (3 nights, 4 days) and Big Break (5 nights, 6 days).
- Price valid only on prior reservation. Service charges and taxes extra.
- Packages are commissionable to travel agents.
- All packages are extendable on pro-rata basis (subject to availability).
- Offer valid from April 1, 1990 to September 30, 1990.

WELCOMGROUP
Palaces, hotels, resorts, indovilles

*For details and reservations: CALL WELCOMNET
Welcomgroup Hotels Instant Reservation Network.

Delhi	3014127, 3010849	Hyderabad	825428, 831023	Baroda	323232
Bombay	6425454, 2042286	Bangalore	268030, 269898	Ahmedabad	468603, 468557
Madras	473691, 452525	Coimbatore	22629	Surat	53027
Calcutta	203222, 202665, 200527	Pune	661680		

Or any Welcomgroup hotel or your travel agent.

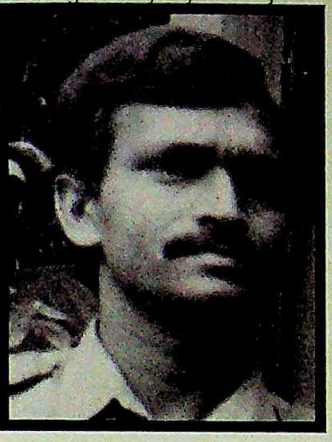
HTA6511R.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Yogendra Chowdhary

The officer investigating Satyendra's murder says his marriage, defying caste barriers, was against "Indian culture".



Randhir Verma

The Dhanbad superintendent of police explains Chowdhary's attitude saying his casteist beliefs are due to his background.

taking place without the guardians' approval is invalid." But the girl was above 18 and the law permits her to marry whoever she wishes. "So what?," retorts Chowdhary. "Ours is after all Indian culture."

Dhanbad SP Randhir Verma also justifies Chowdhary's stance, saying: "The officer comes from a certain background from which you can't isolate him. The beliefs in Bihar are unbelievable and too well ingrained to change overnight." For good measure he adds: "It's easy for Delhi to express outrage at what happens in Bihar but to conceive what motivates the people in Motihari and Champaran is impossible for Delhi."

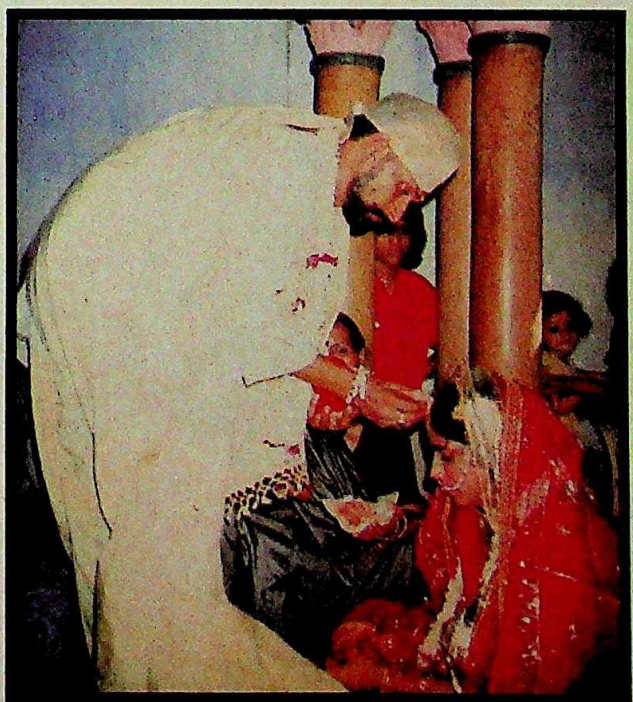
While that may well be true, it deflects attention from the stark truth that the police usually side with the powerful. For instance, they haven't even tried to contact Mira who, according to her own letters, is suffering physical torture in Jehanabad. But that should not surprise when even Mira's mother, Ram Kumari Devi, seems unconcerned. "We don't approve of inter-caste marriages. We marry on the basis of dowry and a lot of give and take," she says.

Even if families were to permit an inter-caste marriage, there are various caste organisations which take it upon themselves to stiffly oppose an alliance between persons belonging to different castes. Virtually every major caste is represented by an organisation: the Yadav Mahasabha, the Kayasthas' Chitragupta Samaj, the Kunwar Samaj of the Rajputs, the Kurmakshatriya Mahasabha of the Kurmis, the Bhumihar Mahasabha, the Brahmins' Kanyakubja Samaj, Saryuparin Samaj, the Maithil Brahmin Samaj, and so on. The result is a social structure where marriage is not the decision of two people to spend the rest of their lives together but a transaction—where dowry is crucial—between two *khandaans* of the same caste. And anyone who dares to defy these clear-cut social rules is punished—often brutally.

TAKE the case of Gokul Sao, 26, and Anita Pandey, 21. Having fallen in love, the two tied the knot in a Patna court in 1987. But as Anita was a Brahmin and Gokul a Sorhi—one of the backward castes—the girl's family would have none of it. As Anita's father, Siddheshwar Nath Pandey, was a police *daroga*, he organised for her to be dragged out of Gokul's home, beaten up on the street by a policeman and sent to her uncle's house in Arrah. Gokul was threatened with nothing less than murder. "One of my friends got stabbed as he was mistaken for me by some goons who were on Anita's family's payrolls. He had to be hospitalised," says he. Even Anita was subjected to physical torture by her uncle, a local Congress(I) leader of Arrah and his henchmen. "They didn't give me food, broke my right hand, scarred my face, damaged my right eye and bored an inch deep hole in my back, all with my parents' permission," she recalls.

By this time a desperate Gokul had filed a case. But Anita's father produced a certificate in court stating that his daughter was merely 13—which made Gokul guilty of forcing a minor girl into marriage. The result was that the court sent Anita to the notorious Patna Women's After Care Home. "Once there, I thought I'd never be free again. But my husband's perseverance paid," says Anita.

For by this time Gokul had decided to go on a fast unto death. And soon after, following the publicity generated, the chief minister ordered that Anita be sent to her father's home. Anita then wrote to the court demanding a medical check to ascertain her age. The upshot: a seven member medical board



Rakesh Kumar and Rashmi Singh

Rakesh, a Kayastha, had to fight a long-drawn battle in the high court before he could marry Rashmi, a Kurmi.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Chennai and eGangotri

who gives a damn!

amboyant.
aring.
efying the rules.
nd the fabric —
swal Premium.

OSWAL®
PREMIUM
SUITINGS

For the rebel in you!

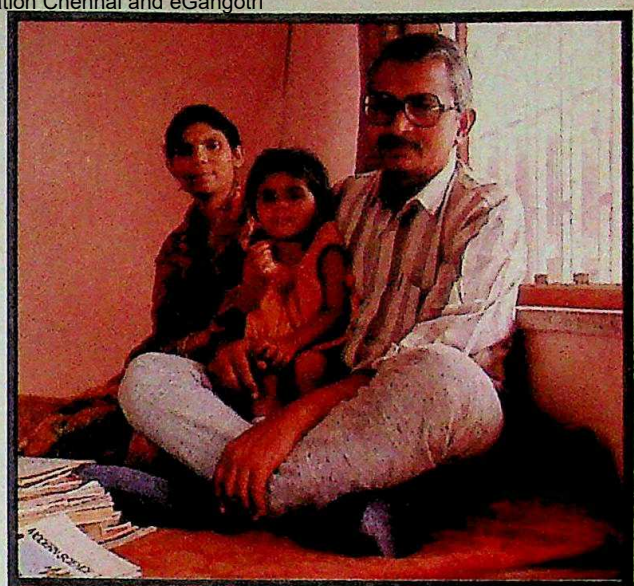
oduct of Arihant Fabrics Ltd.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Khelanand Jha with his family

Khelanand, a Brahmin, lost his job 11 years ago for marrying Minoti, a Harijan, and has not got it back despite official promises.



Anand Bharti with his wife and child

The family of Anand, a Bania, was excommunicated for marrying Archana, a Kayastha girl, after much opposition.

was constituted which declared her age to be between 18 and 19. The court then ordered that Anita be sent to her husband's house under police protection.

This, however, was not the end of the couple's ordeal. Recalls Anita: "Even when I was being brought out of the Patna Women's Home in a police jeep, my uncle's goons arrived in cars and tried to take me away." It was finally thanks to some members of a voluntary organisation, the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini, who lay on the road to stop the cars from reaching her, that Anita could return to her husband.

Since then Anita and Gokul have been together and today they have a four-month old son. But the past continues to torment. Anita craves for normal relations with her parents but her father does not reciprocate such sentiments. Said he: "Anita is no longer my daughter." A caste bias has thus managed to permanently destroy a blood relationship. But Pandey too can be understood—if he accepts his low caste son-in-law, he'll be ostracised by his *khandaan* and disinherited from the large family property.

"Society here will go to any length to prevent an inter-caste alliance," says Rakesh Kumar, 32, a Kayastha, who had to fight a long drawn case in the Patna High Court before he could marry Rashmi Singh, 21, a Kurmi. "Instead of going into the merits of the case, at one point the judge declared that what I felt for Rashmi was not love but plain lust," says he.

And Sushil Kumar Modi, the BJP MLA from Patna Central, discovered in the course of the recent assembly polls that the main plank of his opponents campaign was his marriage to a Goan Christian. According to Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav, "the problem is chronic in Bihar because of lack of education and awareness. Worse, the police often align with the higher caste of the two involved and harass the couple."

Consider the experience of Khelanand Jha, 31, a Brahmin who wed Minoti Paswan, 28, a Harijan 11 years ago. Since then Jha has lost his job as a clerk in the Darbhanga commissioner's office and his village home was set on fire. "I almost died," says Minoti. "It took me two months to walk again." Jha then came to Delhi and began a fast at the Boat Club. Many politicians came to see him including Bihar's then chief minister, Bindeshwari Dubey.

DUBEY promised help but on returning to Bihar, Jha found the promise was an empty one. He went from one government office to the other, with wife and two kids in tow, but justice evaded him. He returned to Delhi in 1988 and has been on a dharna since then with his family. "Many politicians including Rajiv Gandhi and the present Social Welfare Minister, Ram Vilas Paswan, have promised action. Nothing has happened so far. But I'm optimistic," he says.

As is the case elsewhere, dowry is all important in marriages in Bihar. And marriages within the same caste that have blessings of both families bring in ample cash and goodies for the boy's side. Says Sunil Kumar, 26, a Vishwakarma who wed a Bania girl after fighting many a battle: "My parents were crestfallen at the prospect of not getting any dowry."

Interestingly, even girls' families don't oppose dowry. "Here it's a case of izzat," explains Arvind N. Das, author of several books on Bihar. He adds: "Women are property and violation of property is fought over in all societies. And caste is a form of social security to be preserved at all costs."

Madan, an activist of the Chhatra Yuva Sangharsh Vahini, concurs: "In Bihar, caste is the first and most important introduction to a person. Its dilution is met with opposition at all levels." Explains Anand Bharti, 33, a Bania who married Archana Urvashi, a Kayastha girl, after surmounting considerable opposition: "Caste as a social identity is too well-extended in Bihar. Patients visit doctors of the same caste and professors enrol Ph.D. students of their own caste."

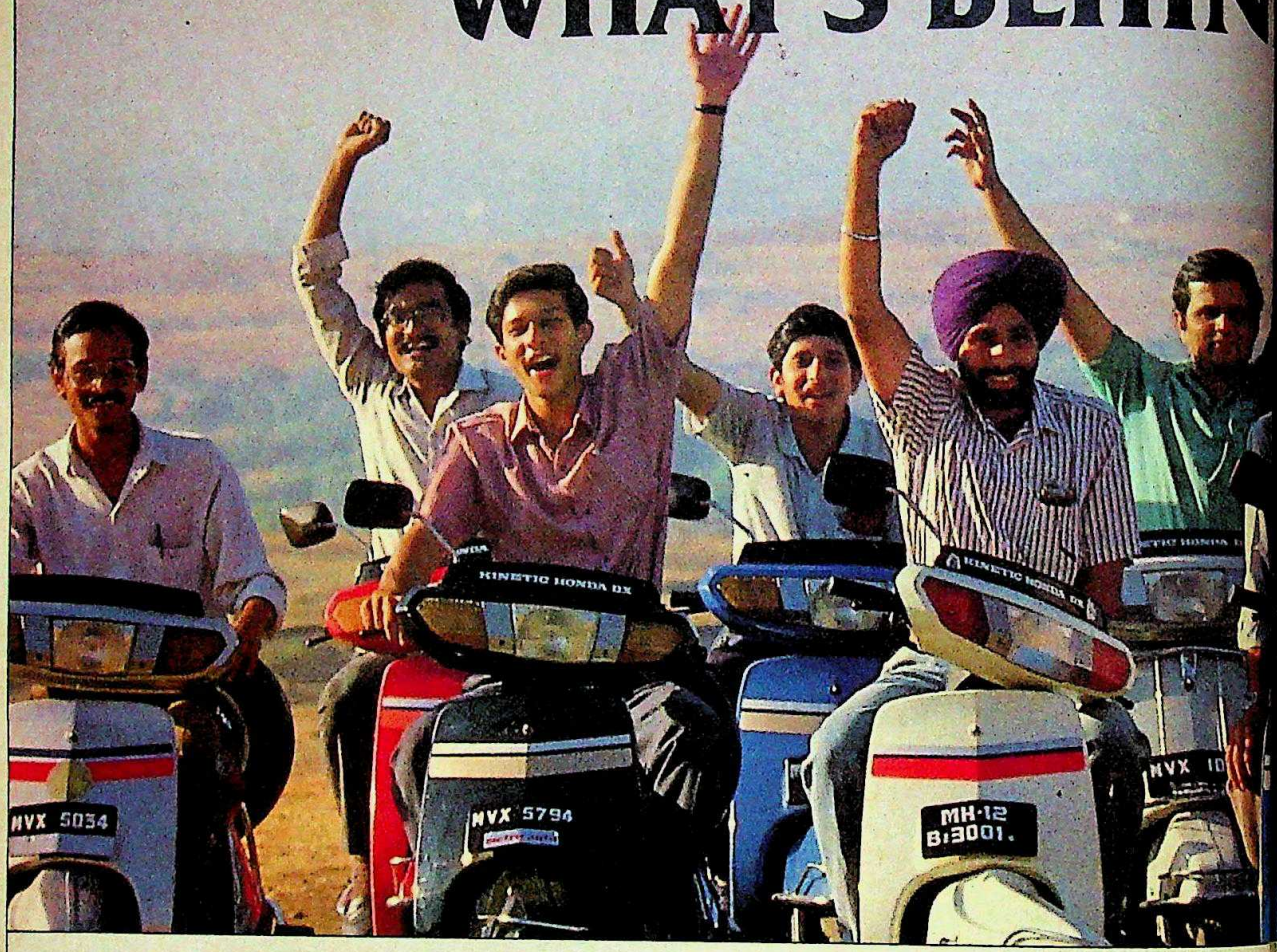
In such an environment, opposition to violation of the sanctity of caste—which comes mainly from inter-caste marriages—cannot but be brutal and barbaric.

—SHARMILA CHANDRA in Patna

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WHAT'S BEHIN



SATISFACTION !

HERE ARE THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

OF AN ALL INDIA SURVEY CONDUCTED AMONGST 1200 TWO -WHEELER OWNERS OVER THREE MONTHS AND PUBLISHED IN INDIA'S LEADING AUTO MAGAZINE - INDIAN AUTO MARCH 1990 ISSUE

SUMMARY

Cause of Satisfaction	MOST SATISFIED SCOOTER OWNERS		
	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
Most satisfied with vehicle, dealer and overall ownership experience	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Experience with vehicle much better than expected	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Maximum positive recommendation to others regarding vehicle	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Maximum positive recommendation to others regarding dealer	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ

CUSTOMER SATISFA
No. 1
KINETIC HONDA
SIMPLER ■ SAFER ■ SUPERIOR

WAMS 043/90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THEIR SMILES ?

INDIAN AUTO

TWO - WHEELER OWNER'S SURVEY

Cause of Satisfaction	MOST SATISFIED SCOOTER OWNERS		
	Rank 1	Rank 2	Rank 3
ON DELIVERY			
No problem with vehicle when first received	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Vehicles which faced problems, subsequently fixed	BAJAJ	LML	K. HONDA
SERVICE / REPAIRS / PARTS			
No routine maintenance repairs performed	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
DEALERSHIP PERFORMANCE			
Satisfied with overall capabilities of dealer	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Adequate explanation received for repair charges	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Repair charges most reasonable	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Servicing time most reasonable	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Never had to return to dealer due to dissatisfactory service	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Never faced delays due to parts not being in stock	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
If parts not in stock, least waiting period	BAJAJ	LML	K. HONDA
If parts not in stock, use of vehicle	LML	BAJAJ	K. HONDA
Least repairing problems with vehicle	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Vehicle was off road for least duration due to repairs	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Excellent performance in service/repairs	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Excellent standard of repairs/service as compared to other makes	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Would definitely recommend own dealer to friend/relative	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
WARRANTY			
No problem experienced during warranty period	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Problem during warranty fixed to satisfaction	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Maximum free repair work done under warranty	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Warranty repairs charged, but explained adequately	BAJAJ	K. HONDA	LML
OWNERSHIP EXPERIENCE			
Least expense on routine maintenance	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Least expense on other repairs	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Least expense on repairs resulting from accidents	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Contacted manufacturer least number of times	LML	K. HONDA	BAJAJ
Would definitely purchase the same make/model in case of replacement	KINETIC HONDA	BAJAJ	LML
Maximum period of use before replacement	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ
Would definitely buy from the same dealer in case of replacement	KINETIC HONDA	LML	BAJAJ

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ARMY DESERTERS

Paying the Price

Six years after they deserted the army in the wake of Operation Bluestar, most lead a precarious existence, struggling to earn a livelihood.

IN June 1984, when Sepoy Baljit Singh deserted the Sikh Regimental Centre in Ramgarh, Bihar, in an emotional frenzy following Operation Bluestar, he could scarcely have imagined the consequences. For a start, he was sentenced to seven months of rigorous imprisonment in Naini Jail, Allahabad. Then, he was discharged from service and sent home.

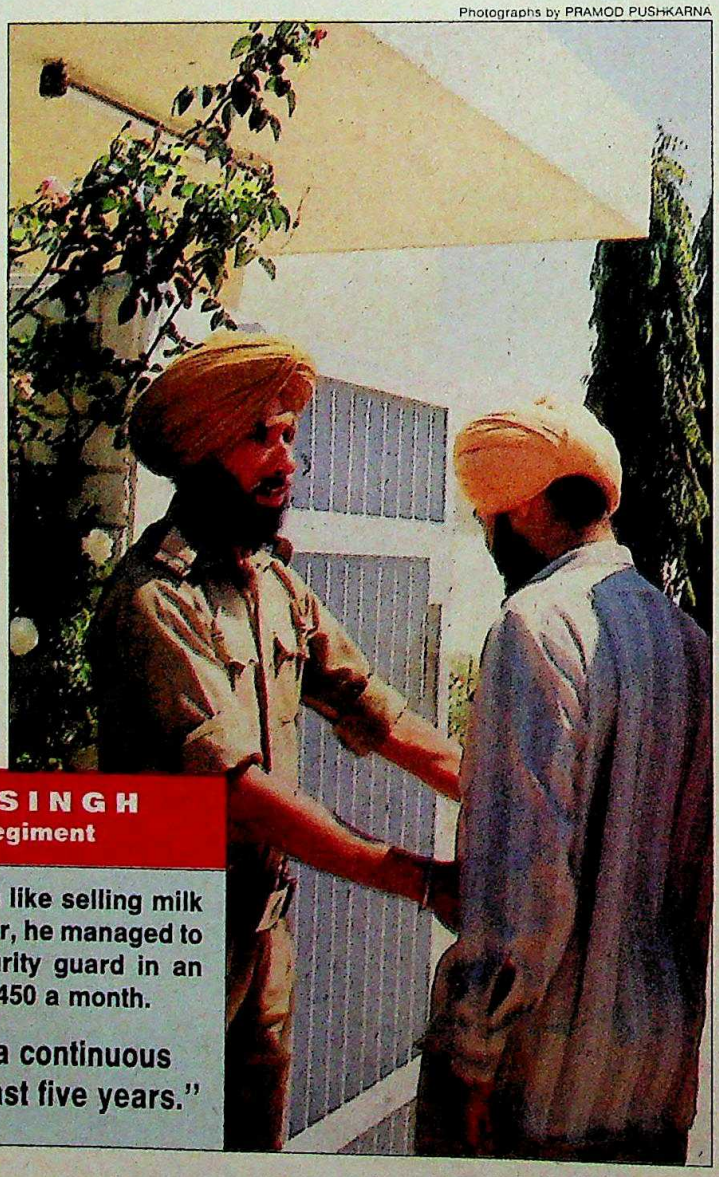
Home was Sohana village in Ropar district in Punjab where Baljit and his brother had two acres of agricultural land between them. Since he was educated only up to the fifth standard, getting a job was not easy. His discharge slip from the army might have helped, but it said clearly that he had been dismissed from service. The fact that the law enforcement agencies suspected his involvement in any local case of terrorist violence did not make life any easier.

With two children to support, Baljit began to do odd jobs, including selling milk. Finally, he got a job as a security guard at Mohali near Chandigarh earning Rs 450 a month.

Last month, Baljit was surprised to receive a letter from the P&T Department calling him for an interview. The letter is a consequence of the Centre's direction to rehabilitate 370 army deserters in Central Government undertakings like the Food Corporation of India, the Central Industrial Security Force, the railways, P&T and the Central Warehousing Corporation. Muses Baljit: "I wonder if anything will come of it. So many times in the past, such hopes have proved elusive."

Baljit was one of about 2,800 Sikh troops involved in incidents of collective insubordination and desertion after Operation Bluestar. The units involved were Sikh Regimental Centre, 3 Sikh, 8 Sikh, 9 Sikh, 18 Sikh, 14 Punjab, 166 Mountain Regiment, 171 Field Regiment, and 196 Field Regiment. The initial reaction of the authorities was one of alarm. But later, recognising that the desertions were mainly a heat-of-the-moment decision, the Government toned down the harsh measures planned, and even announced rehabilitation measures.

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



BALJIT SINGH
19 Sikh Regiment

After doing odd jobs like selling milk in his village in Ropar, he managed to get a job as a security guard in an industrial unit at Rs 450 a month.

"Life has been a continuous suffering for the last five years."

The most far-reaching rehabilitation measure was taken by Army Headquarters itself when it decided to retain about 2,300 of the deserters in the army, after a spell in military prisons.

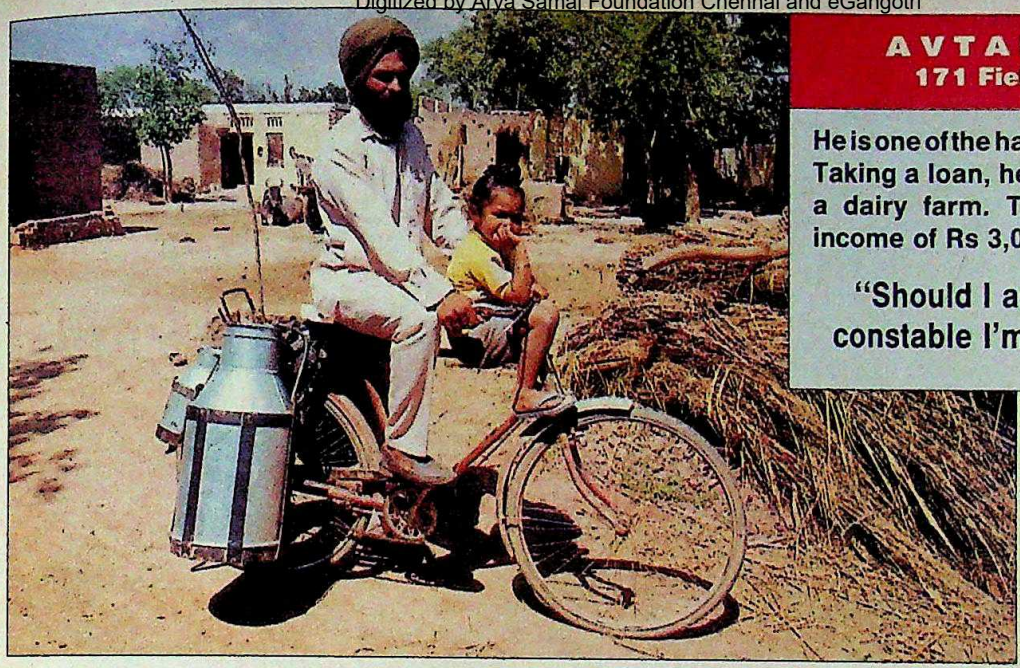
Of the 450 discharged or dismissed from service, 277 were put in civil jails. Of these 234 have been released in the past three years, either on completion of their sentences or after grant of remission.

After the V.P. Singh Government took over, the cases of the remaining 43 deserters were reviewed and 28 more released. Now, only 15 remain in jail who have been convicted of murder or attempt to murder and sentenced to more than eight years rigorous imprisonment.

Freedom is of course welcome but as in the case of Baljit Singh, most deserters find that their problems don't end with release from jail. Subedar Dalwinder Singh of Brahmapura village in Amritsar district, for instance, discovered that after 25 years in the army he didn't have any skills that could fetch him a job. Finally, he learnt to read the

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



AVTAR SINGH
171 Field Regiment

He is one of the handful who prospered. Taking a loan, he and his wife started a dairy farm. Today, they have an income of Rs 3,000 a month.

"Should I accept the job of constable I'm being offered?"

scriptures and today does duty at the village gurdwara for a living. Says he: "The only consolation is that despite the air of militancy all around, one is continuing to tread the lawful path."

Many don't. Police records show 17 deserters on the suspected list, and at least six find mention in the list of hardcore terrorists and have gone underground. One of them, Bisheshar Singh, was among the two terrorists killed when a bomb they were carrying went off accidentally in Chandigarh in March.

Others don't regret what they did after Bluestar. Piara Singh, of the 166 Mountain Regiment, who is now a chowkidar in a school in Shakri village in Amritsar district, declares: "It was a call from within. There's nothing to be ashamed of."

Only a few of the deserters have prospered after being discharged from service. Avtar Singh, formerly of 171 Field Regiment, and his wife took a loan to start a dairy farm in Manauli village in Ropar district. Today, the couple have a monthly income of Rs 3,000. Says Avtar: "I am in a quandary whether to take up the job of constable in the Railway Protection Force being offered now."

BUT Avtar Singh is the rare exception. Many of the deserters lead a precarious existence at best. Until now, the Government had done little to help them. While the Barnala government had provided ex-gratia grants to deserters, houses to the families of those killed and missing, and a monthly maintenance allowance of Rs 500 to the unemployed, it did little by way of providing employment.

The latest move to rehabilitate 370 deserters in Central Government organisations has, therefore, raised expectations. Class IV jobs are to be provided to those deserters who were sepoys and naiks in the army and Class III jobs to others including JCOs. During the past two months, most of those eligible have been screened and their names sent for verification by the police. Says a Food Corporation official who interviewed applicants: "Barring two or three, they are excellent material." But adverse police reports could sabotage the chances of many.

There are other problems too. People in their late 30s and early 40s, at an age when many are eligible to receive pension and leave the army, are being offered jobs

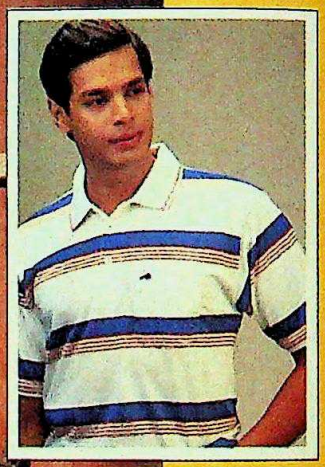
DALWINDER SINGH
16 Sikh Regiment

Not having enough land and unable to get a job, he learnt to read the religious scriptures. Now he does duty at the village gurdwara.

"The consolation is that I am treading a lawful path."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



YOU WON'T FIND THE BULL IN A COMMON HERD

MASH INTERNATIONAL

ernational quality T-shirts and leisurewear for adults and kids in smashing new designs.

ured here are Style Nos. AM 529 & HSI 719 for adults and AM 496 & AM 469 for kids.

EGO MARKETING P. LIMITED, Maker Chambers 3, 19th Floor, Nariman Point, Bombay-400 021, India

ne: 232345; Telex: 112117 APGO IN, 116904 APGO IN; Fax: 2871127

Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Smash International

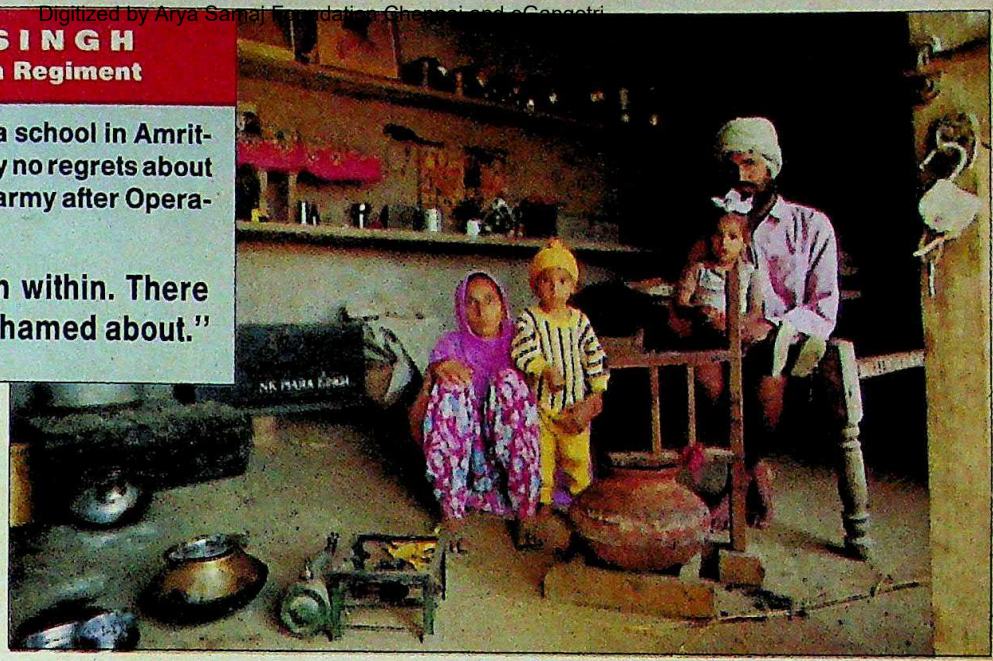
Rediffusion/AML/75

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PIARA SINGH
166 Mountain Regiment

Now a chowkidar in a school in Amritsar, he has absolutely no regrets about having deserted the army after Operation Bluestar.

"It was a call from within. There is nothing to be ashamed about."



in places far from home. Jarnail Singh of Palheri village in Ropar district declares: "I will accept the job only if I am posted in Punjab. For 14 years in the army, I stalked the frontiers of the country. Enough is enough."

Others question the granting of civilian jobs on the basis of ranks held in the army six years ago. One such is ex-Naik Trilochan Singh, brother of top terrorist leader Gurbachan Singh Manochal, who was one of the 28 persons released after the National Front Government came to power.

Trilochan has passed the B.A. Part II examination and was a physical training inspector in the army. After his release, he was called to Chandigarh for a Class IV job in the Food Corporation. "It was an insult," he says and adds, "Some of the deserters who were sepoys are graduates. They are willing to be riflemen in the army but not peons in civilian life.".

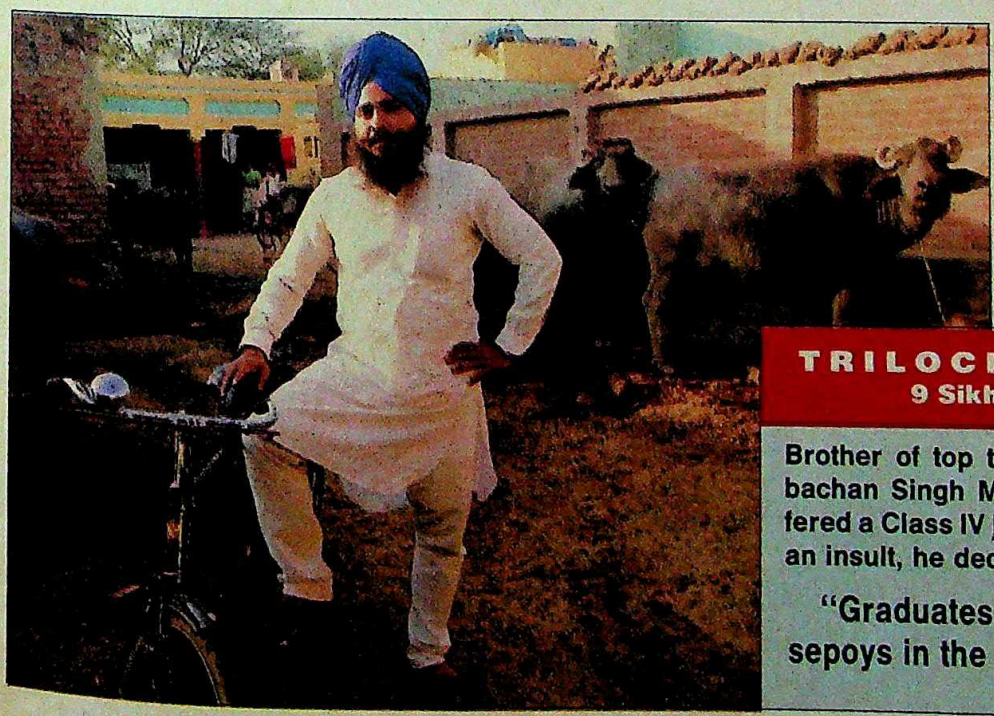
Like Trilochan, many of the deserters, in spite of all that has happened, display a touching respect for the army. In fact, quite a few are keen to rejoin, even if it means serving in remote areas. But they resent being offered jobs like peons and chowkidars. One solution, many feel, is to induct them into the home guards or the civil defence organisation where they will get a chance to be back in uniform.

Some feel that offering jobs is just part of the solution. Brigadier J.S. Dhillon, former chairman of the Punjab Ex-Servicemen Corporation who handled rehabilitation of deserters under the Barnala regime, told INDIA TODAY: "If the Government is keen to close the issue, all cases except those involving murder should be annulled." Simranjit Singh Mann, president of the Akali Dal(M), wants even the 15 deserters convicted of murder and attempt to murder to be released. "They have already undergone the major portion of their sentence," he argues.

A Punjab Government spokesman, on the other hand, claims the recent steps are unprecedented and amount to "near total clemency".

Nevertheless, judging by the response the Government's recent steps have evoked among the deserters, it's a pretty safe bet that one hasn't heard the last of the issue.

—KANWAR SANDHU



TRILOCHAN SINGH
9 Sikh Regiment

Brother of top terrorist leader, Gurbachan Singh Manochal, he was offered a Class IV job. Terming the offer an insult, he declined.

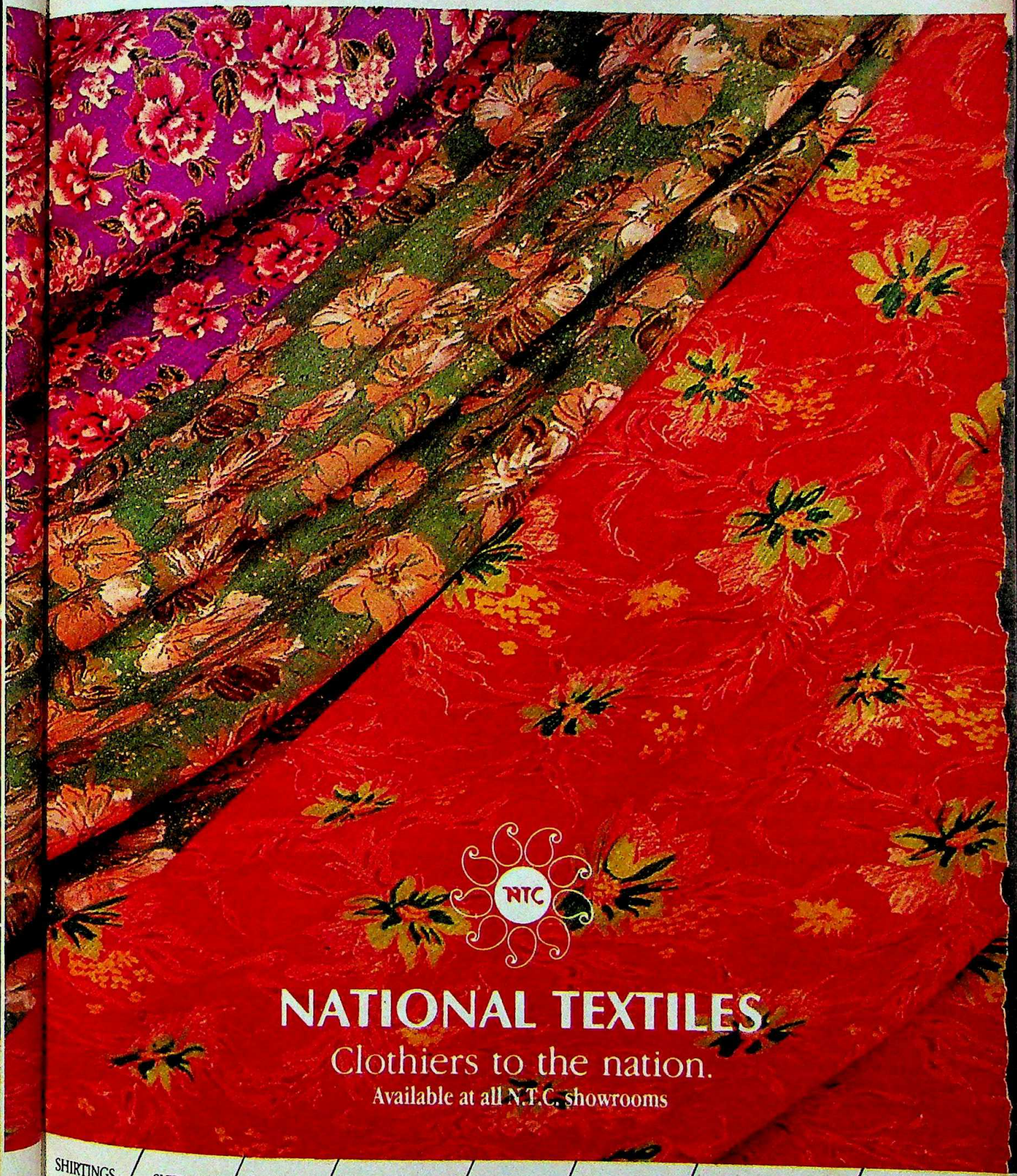
"Graduates are ready to be sepoys in the army, not peons."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

GREAT FABRICS GREAT PRICES
DRESS MATERIALS

Digitized By Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

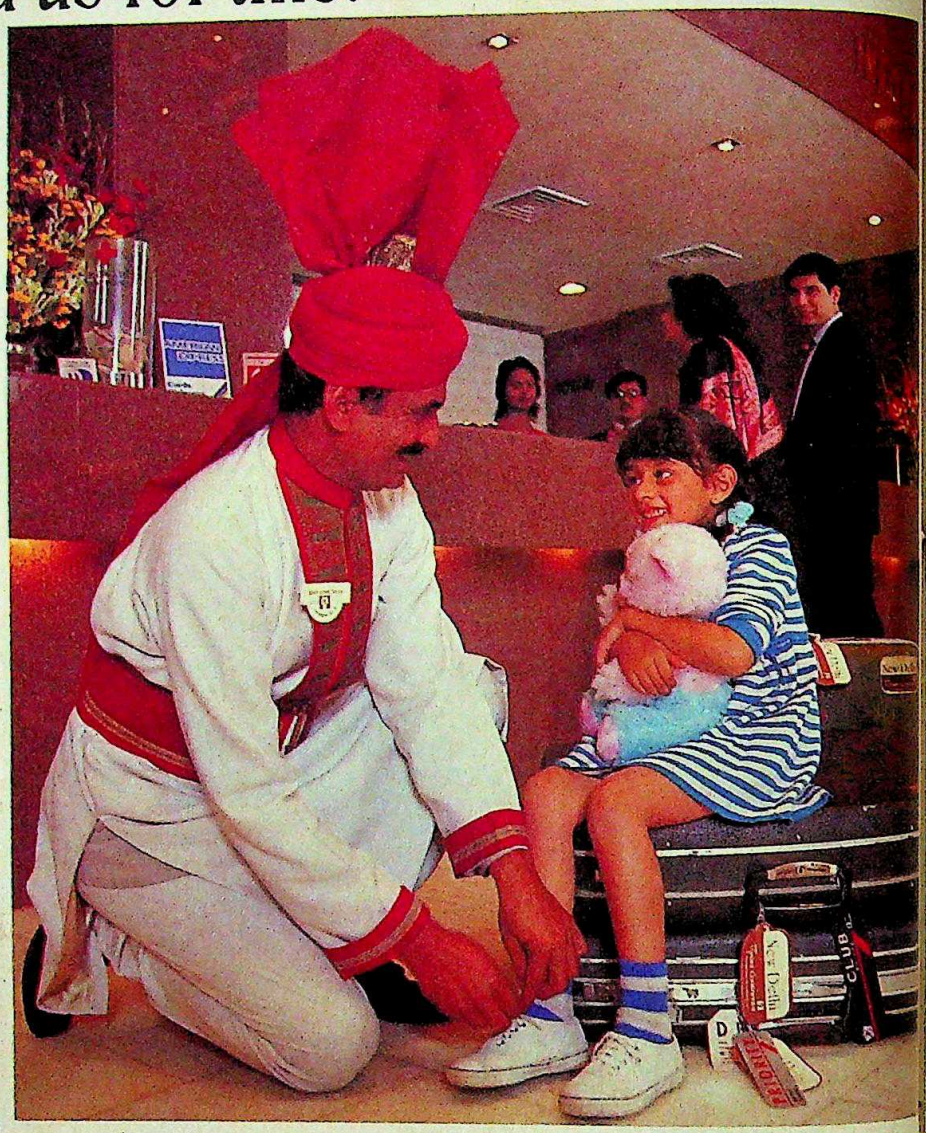


SHIRTINGS / SUITINGS / SAREES / FURNISHINGS / TOWELS / BEDSHEETS / INDUSTRIAL FABRICS / NON-WOVEN FABRICS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

'he Salzburg Institute of Hotel Management ever prepared us for this.



'he little xtras lways come 'om the heart.

The world's finest institute can n a hotelier on what a hotel uld be, but it never prepares on how to make it the finest.

At Vasant Continental the 5 deluxe feeling comes from within l comes with a welcome smile.

So, whether you're on business, on a pleasure tour, leave your es behind. And we'll make sure 're always among friends. cause that is really the essence this small hotel with a large heart!

reservations, contact :
nbay: 233606, Calcutta: 448864, 431434, dras: 868409.

CC Centres at:
medabad: 467059, Baroda: 67184, Cochin: 417, 365417, Coimbatore: 37559, 32957, alior 23276, Guwahati: 22040, 33968, 24813, ore: 35014, 4588, Kanpur: 211579, 211584, 550, 65368, Kota: 21787, Lucknow: 34154, 23, Mangalore: 24596, Panaji: 5420, Nagpur: 279, Nasik: 30092, 30093, Patna: 222579, 462, Pondicherry: 24230, 26010, Pune: 36, Surat: 44996, Thane: 509552, co-Da-Gama: 3508, Varanasi: 44460, 42462, andrum: 77702. Jallandhar: 57408, 57424, 73.

're among friends

JAYPEE HOTELS

HOTEL
Vasant Continental

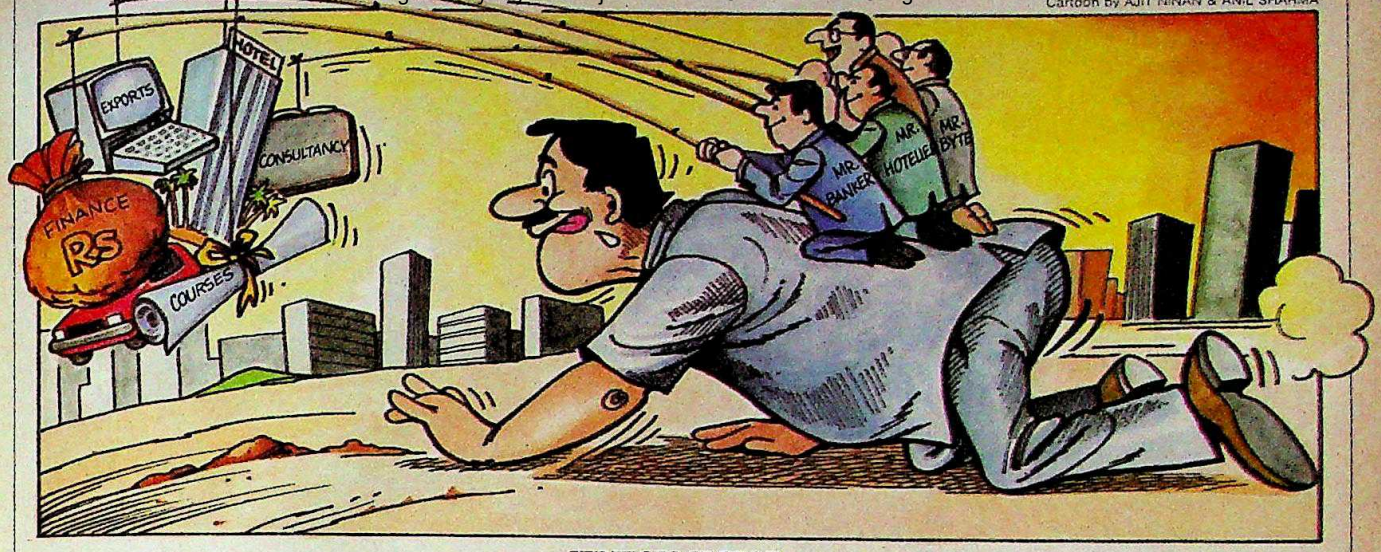
Vasant Vihar, New Delhi-110 057.
Tel: 678800. Tlx: 72386, 72263. Fax: 6873842

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Karishma/JPH/86/97

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cartoon by AJIT NINAN & ANIL SHARMA



SERVICES SECTOR

Ballooning Growth

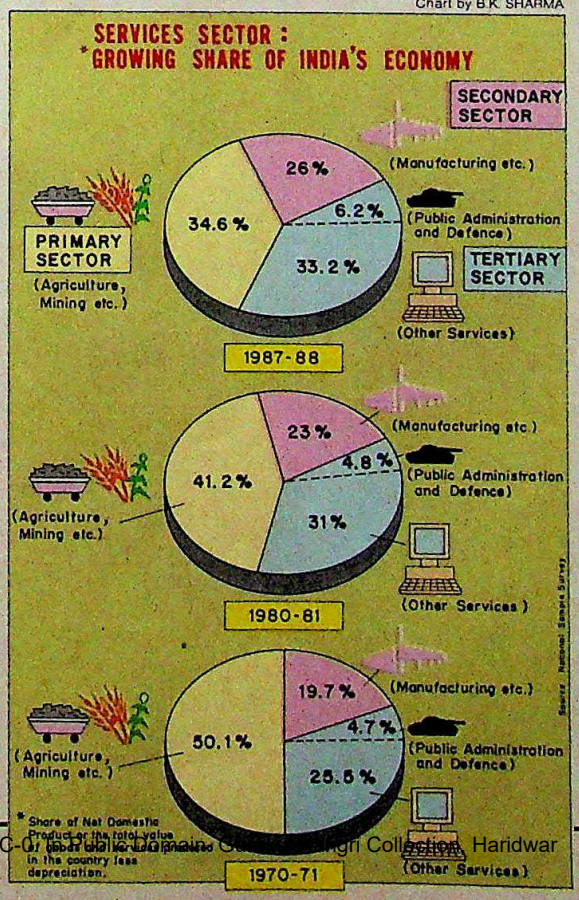
The business of services is the fastest growing sector in the Indian economy. With more companies jumping on to the services bandwagon, the trend should continue.

WHILE Air India Managing Director Rajan Jetley is poring over flight data in his 22nd floor office at Bombay's Nariman Point, 13 floors below him, Jerry Rao, head of Citibank's Indian operations, is introducing yet another financial scheme. In Bangalore, Prakash Mutalik is putting the finishing touches to a software package tailor-made for his parent company in USA, Hewlett-Packard. At Janpath, Delhi, Tibetan migrants are selling curios at exorbitant prices to gullible tourists. On Calcutta's streets, private minibuses race with careless abandon transporting office-goers home. And in Bombay street-corner typists sitting on stools prepare visa applications for masons wanting to migrate to the Gulf. What do these disparate people have in common? They're all in the business of services. Economists call it the tertiary sector.

It's easily the fastest growing sector of the Indian economy, overtaking the primary sector consisting of activities depending on land like agriculture, mining, and the secondary sector consisting of manufacturing activities. What author Alvin Toffler called the Third Wave is finally washing the shores of India.

The transition from a primarily agricultural economy to a manufacturing one and then to a services-oriented economy, is an inevitable change that has taken place all over the world. At one extreme is the US, where over 76 per cent of the workforce is employed in services.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



And now, it's India's turn. The trend is in the same direction. Already, the services sector employs more people and generates more wealth than either the primary or the secondary sector. And over the next decade, services are expected to create more jobs than the other two sectors put together *(see chart)*. Declares V.S. Mahesh, vice-president, human resources, Indian Hotels: "It is certainly a healthy sign of a growing economy." Professor Indira Rajaraman of the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore, is even more categorical: "Services is where the future lies."

That's the way the corporate world thinks too. Companies that have traditionally been in manufacturing are jumping on to the services bandwagon. Examples: Mahindra Ugine Steel has tied up with Day's Inn to set up a string of three-star hotels. TVS has moved into supermarkets in the south and the

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Garwares have set up one in Bombay.

Simultaneously, companies already in services are expanding. The Taj hotels group has taken to outdoor catering, is setting up retail outlets for chocolates, confectionery and ice-cream and has floated a public relations firm. Publishing company Bennett Coleman has set up a financial services company, Times Guaranty Financials. And Citicorp and ANZ Grindlays have set up subsidiaries for software exports.

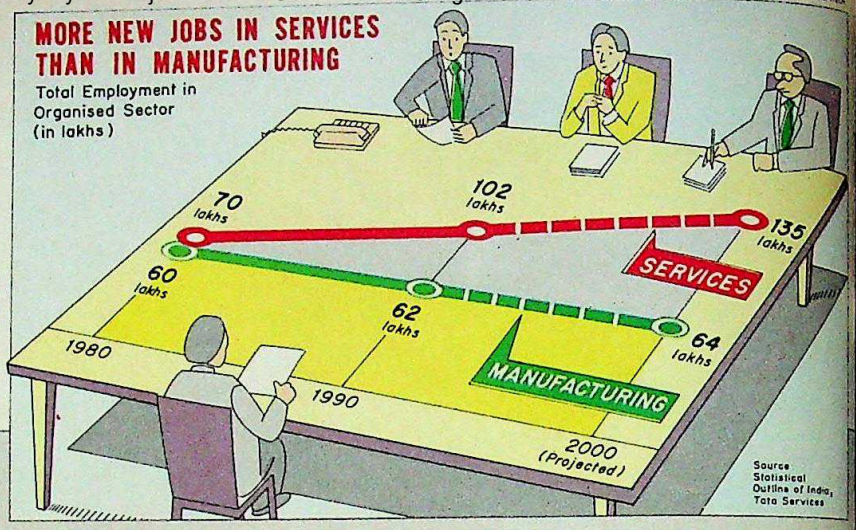
With booming consumerism, retail stores have also prospered. As have players in the transport and construction industry, leasing, warehousing and marketing-support activities like market research, direct mailing and database management. At the lowest level, there has been a demand for domestic servants, with a consequent hike in wages. Innovative entrepreneurs too have rushed for a piece of the action, offering a variety of services that would have been unimaginable a decade ago (*see box*).

Why the boom? Economists feel that the services sector is not a homogeneous one but divided into four broad categories, not all of which grow equally fast.

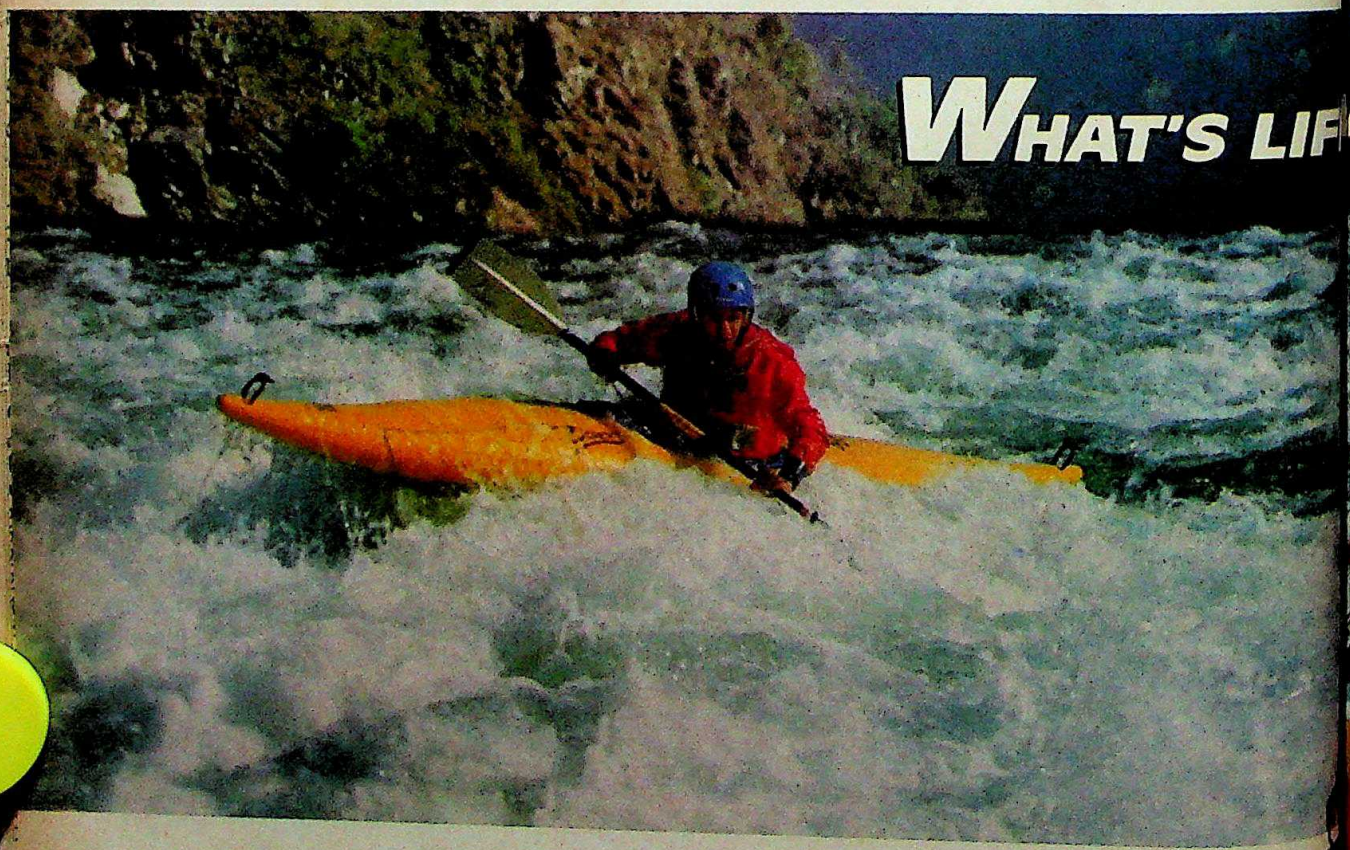
The first category consists of what is called production services—activities linked intimately to production like transportation, trade, repair and maintenance—which are expected to grow roughly at the same pace as industry.

The second consists of business services like banking, insurance, advertising, accountancy, market research, computers for data processing and so on, the demand for which grows faster than the

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



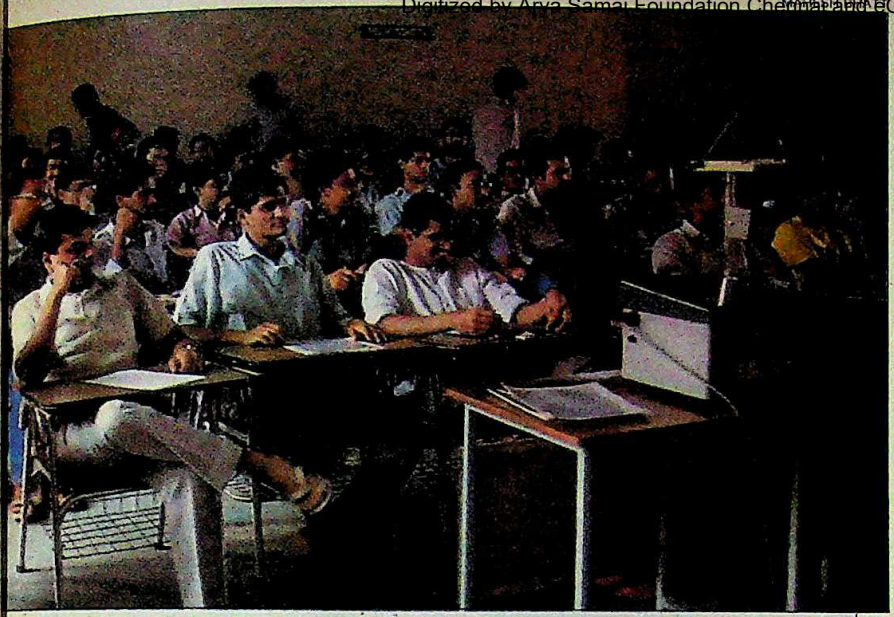
The services sector is expected to create more jobs over the next decade than the agriculture and manufacturing sectors put together.



HERO HONDA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



An Indian Institute of Management classroom in Bangalore

manufacturing industry. Within this section, while an area like accountancy has stabilised, others like computers continue to witness rapid growth.

The third category is consumer services—education, health, travel and tourism, leisure and entertainment, and media—which are not directly related to production but linked to the level of prosperity and purchasing power.

The final category is public administration and defence, whose growth, everyone agrees, should be reined in, but unfortunately hasn't.

Given the consistent growth in industry in the '80s, the boom in services appears a matter of course. Not everyone welcomes it unequivocally, though. Says Rahul Bajaj, chairman of Bajaj Auto: "In our country, the Government should not emphasise services at the expense of agriculture and industry." His fears are echoed by a leading economist: "We should be wary of going the American way." His anxiety stems from the fact that the US is being overtaken by manufacturing giants like Japan and Germany, and the Pacific rim tigers like South Korea and Taiwan.

NITIN Desai, the Government's chief economic adviser, questions the figures that project a steep growth in services. Much of this, he says, is because of a "sponge effect"—which means the services sector absorbs surplus labour which cannot be gainfully employed in the manufacturing sector. "Thus, an unemployed youth becomes a hawker for want of anything better to do," says he.

But Bajaj and Desai seem to be in a minority. Most economists agree the services sector is going to dominate the economy, and that it's welcome.

LIFE WITHOUT A LITTLE PASSION?

Some men will always break free. Enjoying a passion that drives them beyond the ordinary.

For such a man, Hero Honda presents Sleek.

A bike born of Honda technology, designed with flair, and true to its worth in efficiency.

A bike that's fit to be your new passion.

SLEEK

LET THE PASSION OVERTAKE YOU.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Where Style And Fashion Meet

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Burlingtons'

Burlingtons' Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay • Burlingtons' Park Mansions, Calcutta • Burlingtons' Ashoka Hotel, New Delhi

AND SHORTLY INTRODUCING INDIA'S FIRST MAIL ORDER CATALOGUE

Burlingtons Home Shopping

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Says J. Philip, director, Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore: "Post-industrial society is nothing but an economy dominated by the services sector." Adds Canara Bank Chairman N.D. Prabhu: "You can't go on producing without selling, and you can't sell without services."

The revolution seems unstoppable. The current boom is just the beginning. The vast rural sector is just opening up. Says I.Z. Bhatty, director, National Council for Applied Economic Research: "Marketing in the huge, largely-untapped rural areas will be a key concern of the '90s."

Then there are areas like health. Of late many high-tech private hospitals have come up. Education is another area with potential. One corporate entrant into the field is Calcutta-based mining and tea company Macneill and Magor.

With manpower far cheaper than in developed countries, the services sector also has vast export potential. Prakash Hebalkar, who runs a consulting firm, Profitech, lists the possible thrust areas for export: computer software, engineering design, project commissioning and monitoring, health-care, graphic design, publicity and market research.

But while the growth potential of the services sector is immense, the growing number of players will also imply more intense competition. And weaker players may get pushed out. That's perhaps inevitable. In a stampede, some get trampled.

And without doubt, the services sector is witnessing a stampede.

—SALIL TRIPATHI and SHIV TANEJA with bureau reports

Zany Ideas

USING native business sense, entrepreneurial savvy and the imagination to innovate, people across the country are setting up businesses identifying customer needs and fulfilling them—for a price and at a tidy profit.

Take A.D. Singh of Bombay. He returned from the US and joined a multinational firm but soon chucked up his job. For he'd realised that Bombay had a fantastic harbour which was underutilised; and that the city's elite loved to host parties in unusual settings. So he now hires out motor launches and hosts parties off the majestic Gateway of India. His clients range from tycoons to young turks.

That he has hit the jackpot is evident from the fact that it requires at least a month's notice to hire his services during the Christmas season. Says Singh: "This is just the start. I'm looking at getting companies to host conferences off-shore."

Singh is not alone in being innovative. Olympian Soli Contractor manages yachts of the super-rich. Sumedh Shah of the Professional Management Group along with partner Sunil Gavaskar advises companies on how to spend their sports budgets wisely. Last year, he advised Burton cigarettes to put money in hockey, instead of the saturated cricket market. Result: the game got money, the client mileage, and the agency great business. Says Shah: "Hockey is the game of the future. Tennis and cricket are over-exposed."

Besides sports and entertainment, the arts are also getting a boost from the Dynasty Culture Club. Set up by Ronnie Screwvala and Hosi Vasunia, the club takes in exclusive clientele for whom they organise tete-a-tetes between Ben Kingsley and Alyque Padamsee, or the Bolshoi Ballet.

But the real growth has been in the area of business-related services. Drive-in-xerox shops are popular in southern cities, home-delivered message systems have taken root in Delhi, a firm in Bombay remembers anniversaries and birthdays on behalf of top executives and sends their friends gifts and bouquets, while another one specialises in conference management.

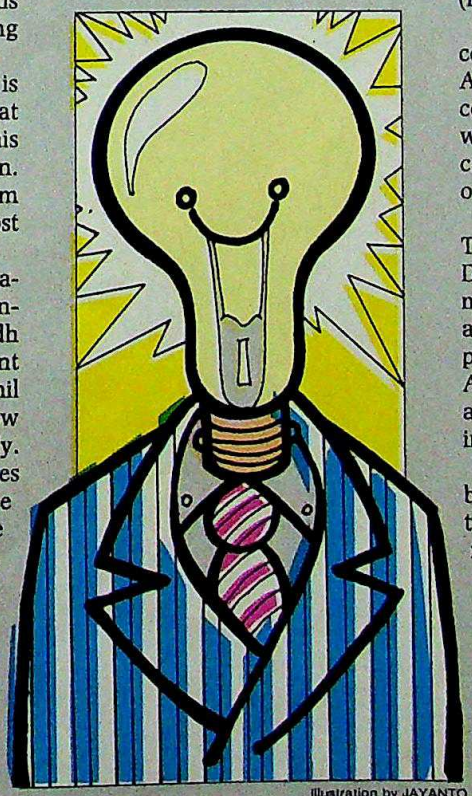


Illustration by JAYANTO

In Bangalore, secretarial services have now entered the privacy of homes. Pragati-India looks after chores like paying bills for utilities, organising pest control fumigation at home, or any other niggling chores that are the bane of Indian DINKs (Double-Income-No-Kids).

Telephone services are also becoming popular. While Telephone Answering Services of Bombay accepts messages on behalf of clients who lack office space, Ask Me gives callers information about any product or service.

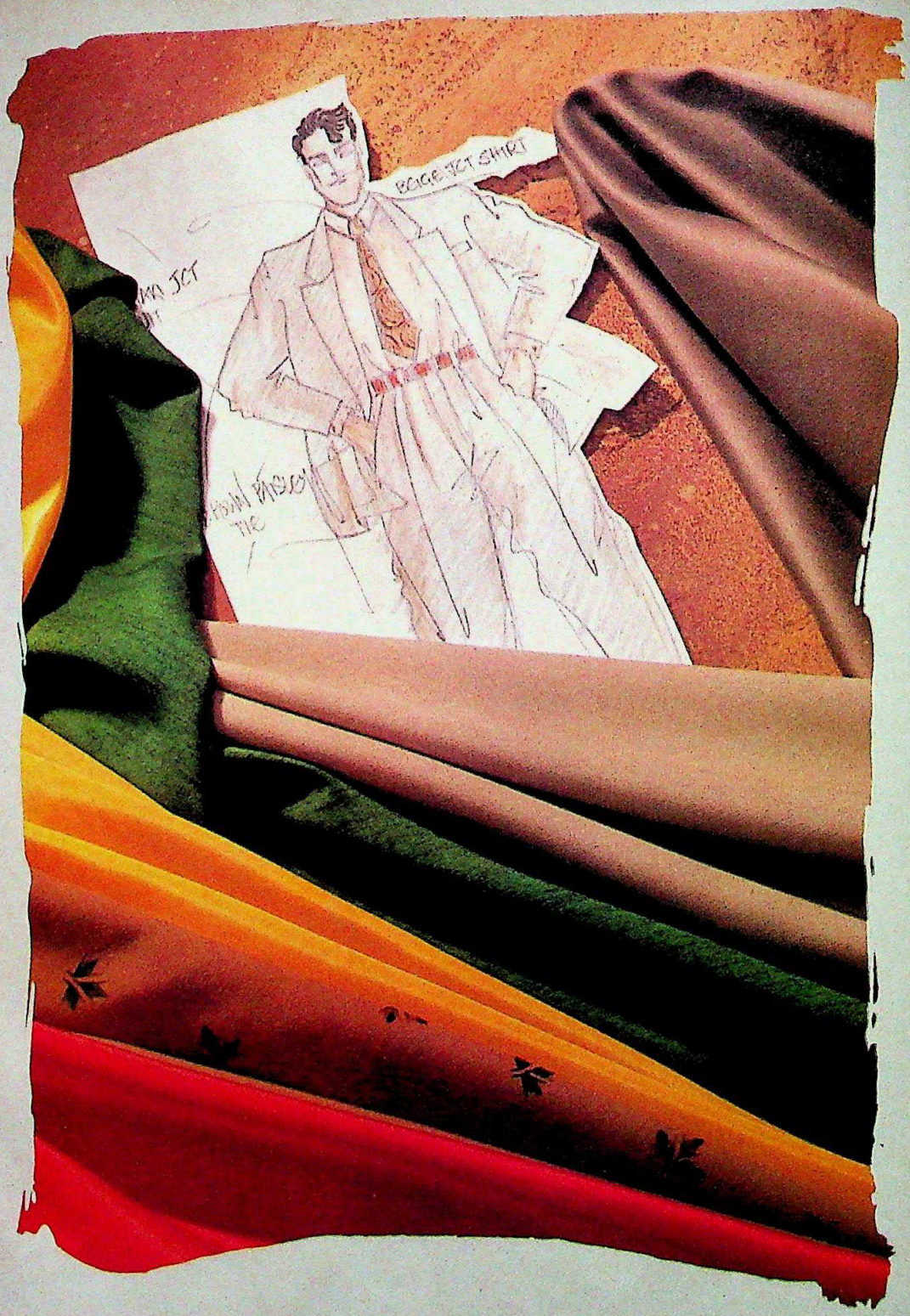
There are trendier services too. Two finishing schools in Bombay and Delhi teach young women how to make souffles and how to hold a cup at an afternoon high tea and the Entrepreneurship Development Centre of Ahmedabad offers courses to heirs about how to run the businesses they inherit.

The key to the success of all these businesses is that they treat the customer like a king. The new Taj restaurant Zodiac Grill has perfected this art. At the end of a continental meal there, instead of the bill, the customer gets a note from the manager: "Please pay whatever you feel is right; it was a pleasure serving you." A long way from the dictum: "In god we trust, rest strictly cash."

—SALIL TRIPATHI with SHIV TANEJA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Creations for a

Contract JCT 21/83 A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Thapar Group

a Masterpiece.

JCT

JCT FABRICS

SUITINGS • SHIRTINGS • DRESS MATERIALS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TAKING SIDES

HERE's a little footnote for history books on India's corporate sector. In early-1988, when the Dubai-based takeover tycoon M. R. Chhabria was buying shares of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) from the market, Rahul Bajaj too tried his luck. Finance Ministry sources say that the chairman of the largest scooter manufacturer first picked up L&T shares worth Rs 50 lakh and then approached the former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi to inform him about his intentions. He was subsequently directed to meet the special secretary in the prime minister's office Montek Singh Ahluwalia and the former finance secretary S. Venkitaramanan. But a clear message was soon conveyed to Bajaj: "Any company but not this one." What this episode highlights is that long before the Ambani-controlled Reliance group became formally associated with L&T, New Delhi was very clear which horse it was backing. So Chhabria was asked to lay his hands off the engineering company after having received initial signals that he was not unwelcome. And Bajaj searched for greener pastures elsewhere.

BATTLE OF THE BOTTLE

BEFORE last fortnight's Government decision to completely ban the use of brominated vegetable oil (BVO) in citrus-flavoured soft drinks, the Parle group and Pure Drinks lobbied very hard to extend the 'grace' period—which expired on April 15—permitting soft drink manufacturers to replace BVO by safer substitutes. The two concerns' brands like Limca, Gold Spot, Tripp and Campa Orange have been using BVO for years, despite international bodies strongly recommending its ban as it is unsafe for human intake. Now, of course, both claim that their drinks do not contain BVO. The use of substitutes for BVO has presumably hiked production costs, but to what extent is not known.

While the lobbying was going on, one rival was having a quiet laugh. And this is none other than the multinational Pepsi whose soft drinks sans BVO will hit the market soon. Marking yet another round in the battle for the bottle.

PRIVATE CONCERNS

IS privatisation the only panacea for the Hotel Corporation of India (HCI), the ailing subsidiary of Air India which runs a chain of five hotels? HCI's accumulated losses have exceeded a whopping Rs 23 crore and its cash loss last year was more than Rs 5 crore. It is reliably learnt that the Ministry of Civil Aviation is seriously contemplating selling 60 per cent of HCI's shares to an international hotel chain. Even if one assumes that a buyer for HCI's equity can be found, a question arises as what Air India will charge for its stake in the losing concern. For the airline has not only invested some Rs 35 crore in HCI, the values of at least three of its hotels near the Bombay and Delhi airports have shot up. So, in case a decision is taken to partially privatise HCI, Air India is bound to extract its pound of flesh.

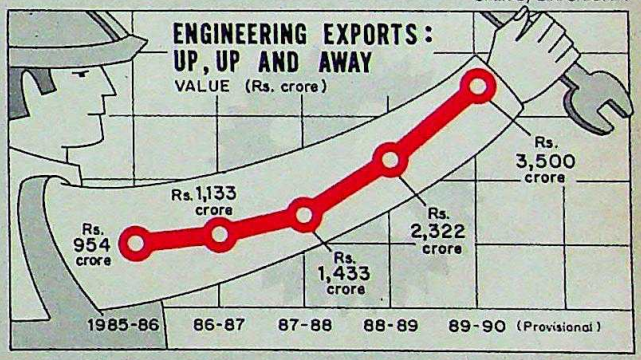
PRESSURE SELLING

THE Madras-based TTK group of companies is gearing up to launch a second line of Prestige pressure cookers. The group will be re-introducing a range of "electromatic" pressure cookers whose production was discontinued in 1983 because of the non-availability of a particular kind of electric coil. Meanwhile, it is strengthening its marketing efforts. Last month, for instance, 20 top dealers received free airline tickets to travel to Singapore and Goa.

CLIMBING EXPORTS

ENGINEERING exports from India have more than doubled over the last two years. Thanks largely to the rapid devaluation in the international value of the rupee which has made Indian machinery more competitive in the world market. At one level, India's share of global exports as

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



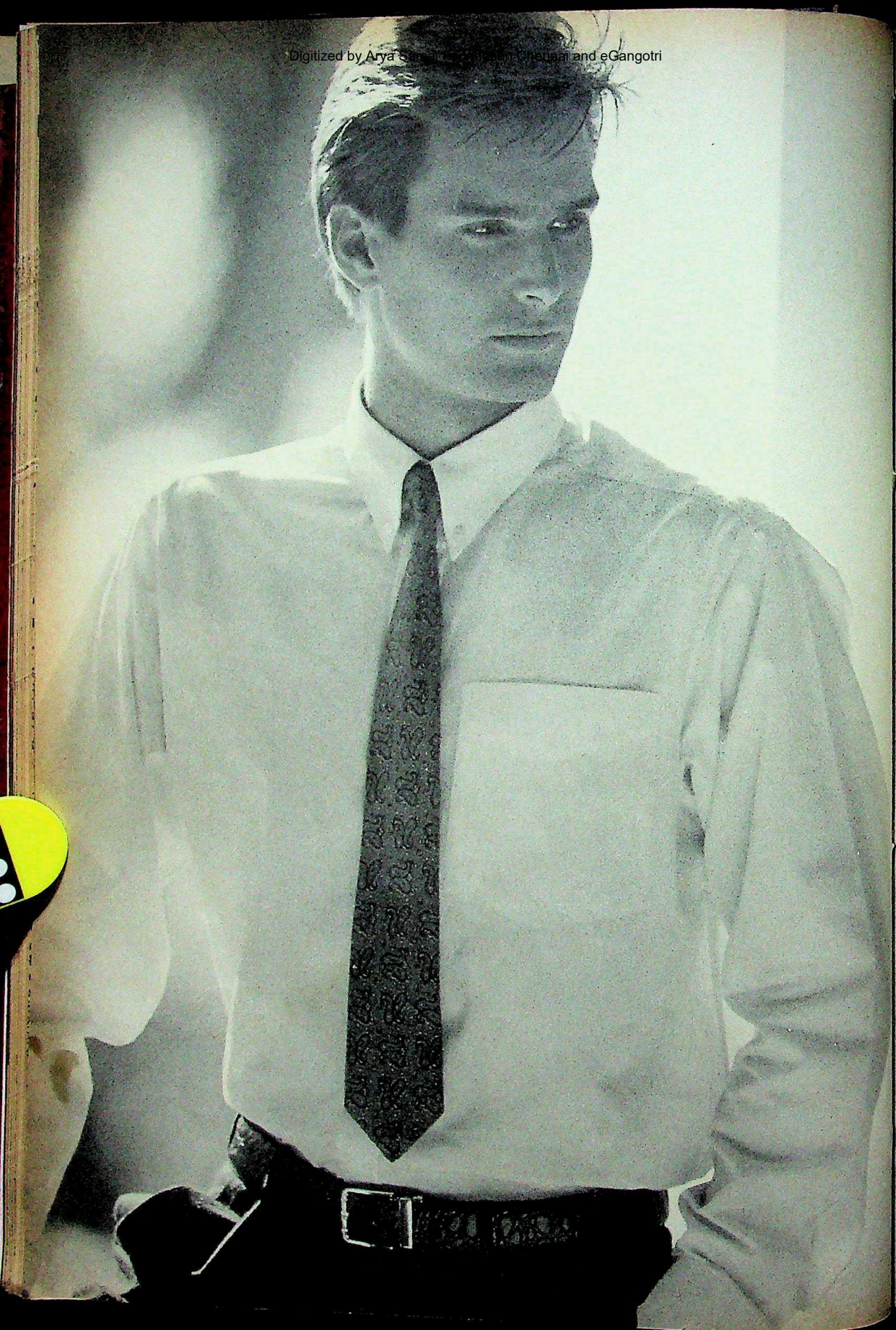
well as the share of exports in total domestic production of engineering goods has stagnated or come down in recent years. On the other hand, new markets in the US and Europe have opened up. Between April and September last, exports were just over Rs 1,300 crore but the figure for the full year has been estimated to be in the region of Rs 3,500 crore *(see chart)*. Major players like TELCO, Tata Steel, Mukand and Kirloskar Cummins maintained their export growth rate last year.

HIGH-TECH GADGETS

IN December 1988, the Indian Railways purchased 1,000 mobile communication sets from a Danish firm called Teletec at a price of $30 million (Rs 45 crore). The state-of-the-art walkie-talkie units have three buttons to enable the train driver to make 'ordinary' or 'alarm' calls to a nearby railway station or a 'direct' call to the guard. What is more this system can eventually be hooked on to the telephone network thus enabling persons to make phone calls from a running train. The railways are so impressed with this new gizmo that they have asked Teletec to go ahead and set up a Rs 50-crore joint venture with the Thapar group's Crompton Greaves at Bangalore. The new company, called CG Teletec India Limited, intends starting commercial production by the end of the year and some 1,000 units—with an import content of 38 per cent—are expected to be turned out next year.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PRESENTING
THE
POWER
LOOK
PREMIUM
SHIRTINGS
Siyaram's®

CC-0. In Public Domain. Panini Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Collection.

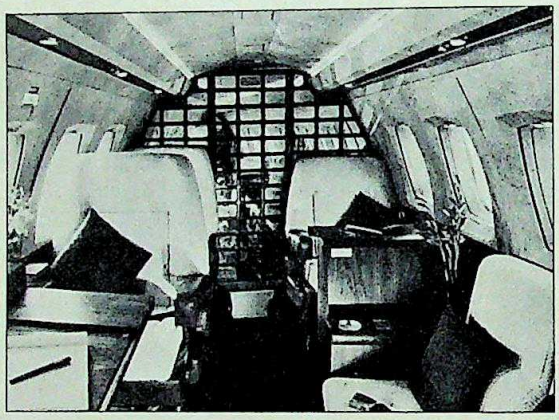
Kohinoor Siyaram Silk Mills Ltd., Bombay

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

AIR TAXIS

Hail a Plane

The Government opens up the skies for air taxis



The first air taxi; (left) interior; and Gill: a complete reversal of policy

ON March 12, a seven-seater aircraft carried World Bank President Barber Conable and five of his colleagues from Dhaka to Delhi. So what's new? Plenty actually. This was the first flight of the first air taxi which has been allowed to operate in the country. The owner of the aircraft: India International Airways Pvt Ltd controlled by UK-based entrepreneur non-resident Indian, Surinder Singh Gill, 37.

Barely a month later, on April 11, Union Minister for Civil Aviation Arif Mohammed Khan formally announced a series of policy changes which, at one fell stroke, almost completely deregulated the domestic civil aviation sector. The move marked the reversal of a process that began in August 1953 when eight private airlines were nationalised.

Though Khan's 'open sky' policy was widely welcomed, it took quite a few by surprise. Earlier, the Rajiv Gandhi government had spent nearly five years in debating the pros and cons of allowing private air taxis before it issued a set of guidelines in September last. That too, after the subject had been discussed threadbare by the Cabinet no less than three times. Khan, in fact, went beyond the September guidelines. The salient features of the new policy are:

- Removal of all restrictions on the number of airports from which air taxis can operate and the number of landings they can make.
- The minimum seating capacity has been raised to 90 but approvals already granted for smaller aircraft will remain.
- Air taxis are free to charge rates lower than those of domestic carriers.
- More incentives to foreign and domestic airlines to carry cargo out of India.

What prompted such a drastic overhaul of the country's aviation policy? "The policy was announced in a bit of a huff," says Harsh Vardhan, managing director, Vayudoot. He adds that the provocation for the policy pronouncement seems to be the backlog of cargo piled up at airports and the sudden drop in Indian Airlines' seating capacity after the grounding of the A 320 fleet. A spokesman of the Civil Aviation Ministry, however, claims the new policy has come after years of deliberation.

Still, the fact remains that the country's aviation capacity desperately needs augmentation. The gap between supply and demand is especially acute in the case of cargo, particularly in March-April when exports of garments peak. In early April, Delhi airport alone had a record cargo backlog exceeding 22,000 tonnes. Khan's policy proposes to extend the 'open sky' policy to foreign cargo carriers permanently to facilitate them to "make investment decisions...on a long-term basis".

The new policy has wide-ranging implications. "Though it will take some time before Indian Airlines and Vayudoot feel the brunt of competition, the two airlines will now have to pay far greater attention to the needs of passengers," says Rahul Bajaj, former chairman, Indian Airlines.

Won't that lead to Vayudoot—with accumulated losses exceeding Rs 40 crore—sinking deeper into the red? Not necessarily, says Vardhan. "We are best placed to take advantage of the new policy and introduce larger aircraft. This is what we've been wanting for years," he claims. Whether Vayudoot will tone up its functioning is not certain, but one thing is clear: the race for grabbing the most travellers in the domestic sector has started and henceforth the three national airlines will be competing with one another. And no wonder new innovations are being made. Since March 26 Vayudoot has been running a Delhi-Bombay service every night using leased aircraft and more flights between Delhi, Bangalore and Calcutta are planned.

Despite the brave front put up by Vayudoot, though it could be on the losing side of the mounting competition, what cannot be denied is that the Rajiv Gandhi government's dilly-dallying on the air taxi policy centred largely around the need to protect Vayudoot. That was why, since 1985, the maximum seating capacity of air taxis was first slowly hiked from 10 to 19 to 50, then brought down to 20 and hiked again to 50 in September.

There were bureaucratic tussles too. A section within the Finance Ministry opposed the scheme on the ground that it would benefit only the rich and not bring in much foreign exchange. A committee then worked out the financing pattern whereby all hard currency for purchase or lease of aircraft and spares would be paid for by NRIs. Further, according to the

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

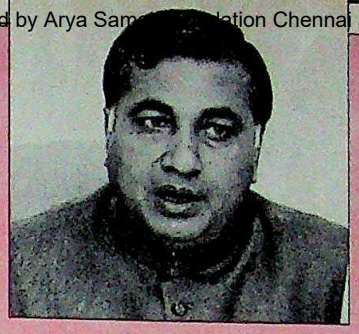
format decided, repatriation of equity would not be allowed for the first five years.

The then finance secretary Gopi Arora had questioned why air taxi operators should pay in rupees for fuel which the country was importing in foreign exchange. However, realising that cabinet approval for the scheme had already come through, Arora chose not to put a spoke in the wheel.

By this time the Civil Aviation Ministry had started issuing no-objection certificates to potential taxi operators. The 15 parties which had received such certificates till mid-April constitute a motley crew.

On one side are large companies like Tata Steel, Dalmia Resorts, Lloyds Steel and Indian Metals & Ferro Alloys. On the other are high-profile NRI Praful Patel's Asia Funds and wheeler-dealer Swami Dhirendra Brahmachari's Aparna Aviation.

A no-objection certificate is, however, only the first step to operate an air taxi. Subsequently, the Directorate General of Civil Aviation has to ascertain the credentials of the operator and certify the airworthiness of the aircraft before issuing a permit. So far, besides India International, only Delhi-Gulf Airways and Maneckji Aviation, Bombay, have received such permits.



Khan's policy has been welcomed but it may not work wonders.

Besides the World Bank team, India International has flown a *Time* magazine group to Amritsar and a doctor on an emergency visit to Calcutta. Currently, the firm charges around Rs 35,000 per flying hour. Though Gill says these rates are 25-30 per cent lower than UK rates, a highly-placed government source says the rates will crash by half once more air taxis begin operation.

In any case, there is unlikely to be a rush to start air taxis because initial investment as well as risks are extremely high. "It's sexy for a company to say it owns aircraft, but it's also a quick way to lose money," says Alan Burnett, manager, British Airways in Delhi.

The key question is whether the new policy will boost tourism. "Not by air taxis alone," says Inder Sharma, head of the country's largest travel agency, Sita World Travels. He feels that a lot of money and effort still needs to be expended on improving airfields and streamlining customs and immigration procedures besides providing suitable accommodation and surface transport facilities.

In other words, though the new aviation policy is an important step towards deregulation—and lessening the problems faced by domestic passengers—there is still plenty of rough weather to fly through before it reaches cruising speed.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA

AIR INDIA

Soaring High

THROUGH most of last year, Air India Managing Director Rajan Jetley's face was wreathed in smiles. And with good reason. From a loss of Rs 43 crore in 1987-88, Air India had turned in a profit of around Rs 44 crore—the biggest turnaround in the airline's history.

This year, the smiles on Jetley's face are broader. And with equally good reason. Unaudited figures show that in 1989-90, Air India has earned a net profit of about Rs 53 crore, higher than the targeted Rs 40 crore. Says Finance Director Subash Gupte: "The truth is, we were not expecting some of the sectors to pick up as well as they did."

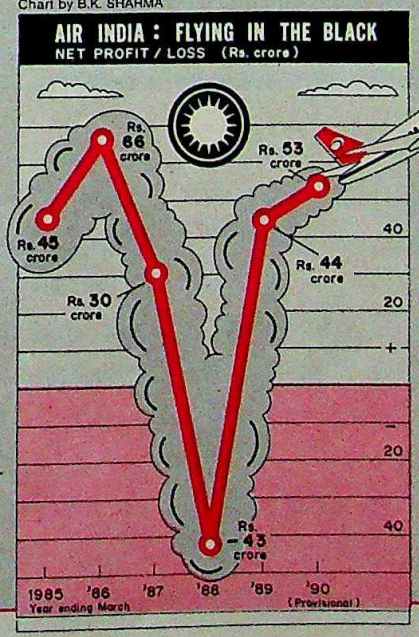
As in the past, sceptics accuse the airline of "creative accounting". But this time around, when Jetley brushes off such charges, it is with a triumphant air. "I think our detractors will believe us now since the Comptroller and Auditor General of India accepted our figures last year without a single adverse comment," he says.

So how did Air India do it? By early-'89, Jetley explains, Air India had refurbished its image by introducing its club class and adding non-stop flights. There were other innovations: film and food festivals, special handling of first-class and business class passengers.

The changes seem to have paid off—last year, Air India carried 1.25 lakh more passengers than the 21.10 lakh passengers carried in the previous year. Earnings from the first-class went up by 5 per cent. Also, thanks to its improved safety record, the insurance premium Air India paid on its fleet fell drastically: from Rs 23.26 crore in 1986-87 to Rs 12.20 crore last year. And unlike earlier, passengers paying full fare for the economy class are not automatically upgraded to the club class. In fact, the club class fare has been hiked by 10 per cent.

Jetley: upbeat mood

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



The bottomline reflects all this. Last year, all of Air India's routes, except those going to and from Hong Kong and certain European cities, proved profitable, a vast change from two years ago when only the Gulf routes were turning in profits. More important, the improved results have come despite higher fuel and wage bills and bigger provisions for depreciation and interest.

For next year, more changes are planned. A global publicity and promotional campaign will be launched. And efforts will be intensified to attract more customers to Air India's new sun executive class.

But mainly, it will be a period of consolidation. —RAGHU NANDAN DHAR

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by eGangotri

YOUR FIRE EXTINGUISHER WAS DESIGNED WITHOUT ONE THING IN MIND: FIRE.

Try using a conventional fire extinguisher in a real-life fire situation. In just 3 minutes, because after that a fire becomes too much to control.

First, find the extinguisher. Then, lift the heavy fellow up. While you're still in a state of panic, read through a sea of complicated instructions and memorise them. Then rush back... sorry, time's up.

The sad truth is that conventional extinguishers pose a serious handicap when it comes to fighting fire in real-life fire situations — especially when they're in untrained hands.

Which is why you need a user-friendly extinguisher like Ceasefire. The compact, powerful extinguisher that's easy to use : just aim at the base of the fire and press the nozzle.

Ceasefire has several other features which make it the ideal extinguisher for ordinary people to use in a real-life situation :

Ceasefire is not available at any retail outlet. Our salesperson will call on you shortly for a demonstration. Otherwise, write or call us.
HEAD OFFICE: Direct Marketing Pvt. Ltd., 801/2 Tulsiani Chambers, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021. Tel: 233024/232808.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Ceasefire contains Halon 1211, the world's most powerful fire fighting agent. ► It needs no refilling or servicing. ► Unlike conventional fire extinguishers, it doesn't damage sensitive electronic equipment. ► It has twice the throw of most fire extinguishers. ► It's so versatile, it's effective against all classes of fire. ► And Ceasefire costs just Rs. 360, one-third the cost of a conventional fire extinguisher.

A FISTFUL OF SHEER POWER.

Trikaya Grey.D.M.5.90

REGIONAL OFFICES: Calcutta: Tel: 463965. New Delhi: Tel: 5722240. Madras: Tel: 612260. BRANCH OFFICES: Chandigarh: Tel: 20152. Kanpur: Tel: 61813. Patna: Tel: 31302. Ahmedabad: Tel: C/o: 79417. Indore: Tel: 3469. Bangalore: Tel: 564313. Cochin: Tel: 355326. Hyderabad: 231052.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

LARSEN & TOUBRO

A Tame Ending

Ambani's battle for control ends

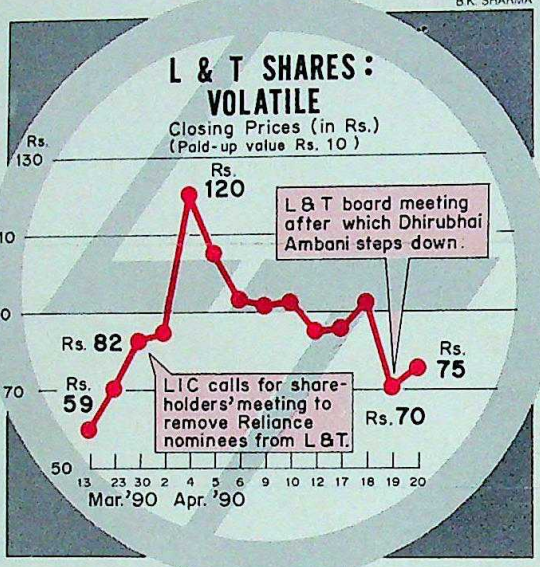
IN a move totally at odds with their combative image, the Ambanis' battle for control of engineering giant Larsen & Toubro (L&T) ended in a whimper. The anti-climax came on April 19, after a two-hour meeting of L&T's board of directors. At the meeting—which was widely expected to be messy but turned out to be quite a tame affair—LIC Chairman N.K. Shinkar withdrew the notice calling for an extraordinary general meeting of shareholders to remove four Reliance nominees from the company's board. These four were chairman Dhirubhai Ambani, his sons Mukesh and Anil, and their solicitor M.L. Bhakta.

Instead, the financial institutions led by LIC settled for an amicable compromise: Dhirubhai resigned as L&T chairman and director (he was replaced by D.N. Ghosh, ex-chairman State Bank of India), Mukesh quit as vice-chairman but remained a director while the position of the two other directors remained intact. Said a beaming L&T director, R.M. Gandhi, after the board meeting: "Everybody concerned was prepared for a compromise."

In a press statement, Dhirubhai referred to "war clouds... hovering over our borders" and stated that "never before since Independence has the unity and integrity of India" been threatened as now. Thus, he added, "This is a moment when all Indians must work together in a spirit of constructive endeavour." Did all these high-faluting statements mean that the Ambanis had patched up with the V.P. Singh Government? Not really. For the compromise raises more questions than it answers.

Until two days before the board meeting, it appeared as if LIC was spoiling for a proxy fight. The corporation moved the Bombay High Court which ordered L&T to submit its register of shareholders to LIC. Then, inspectors of the Reserve Bank of India made polite checks on a clutch of foreign banks in Bombay and asked them for an itemised list of all advances made against Reliance and L&T shares—believed to be somewhere in the region of Rs 150 crore. There was speculation that these banks had transferred a substantial chunk of L&T shares in their names to acquire voting rights at a meeting of shareholders.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



N.K. Shinkar and Dhirubhai Ambani: anti-climax

The Ambanis are also believed to have told LIC that they did not directly hold more than 25 per cent of L&T's shares. (Earlier, Reliance sources had claimed that the Ambanis controlled some 33 per cent of the company's equity.) But, as highly-placed sources in the financial institutions point out, the impression that the Ambanis were on a losing wicket was not entirely accurate. While LIC was preparing for a proxy war in Bombay, the Ambanis were in Delhi petitioning members of Parliament and senior ministers in the National Front Government. And with some degree of success.

It is said that the BJP as well as the CPI(M) took extraordinary interest in the tussle. West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu, who is keen that Reliance set up a project in his state, and Union Industry Minister Ajit Singh, are supposed to have suggested to the Government that it settle its dispute with the Ambanis. Significantly, the BJP's ally in Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena, which controls the L&T union at Powai, Bombay, was planning to launch a demonstration in support of the Ambanis.

While the full story of what happened at L&T may take time to emerge, many seem to have got an impression that the National Front Government has done a volte face. It started off in an aggressive tone which later petered out meekly. The L&T board meeting was delayed by two hours apparently because the heads of financial institutions were awaiting instructions from Delhi. Did this confirm the Ambanis' claim that the institutions were not acting independently but at the behest of the Government?

Thereafter, Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate stated that there would be a CBI inquiry into BoB Fiscal's role in acquiring L&T shares on behalf of the Reliance group. Subsequently, a separate parliamentary inquiry could take place, he added. But a bigger question remained: who will actually call the shots at L&T? The new chairman Ghosh or the Ambanis, whose shareholding in L&T will go up considerably in the next few weeks.

Even now, the Ambanis have the option to nominate another director in place of Dhirubhai. The institutions have five directors on the board. And a majority of senior company executives are believed to be Ambani loyalists. Ghosh's position on two crucial issues remains to be seen. What will he do about the Rs 75-crore investment by L&T in Reliance shares? Secondly, will he allow L&T to extend suppliers' credit—anywhere between Rs 300 crore and Rs 600 crore—for the Rs 800-crore Reliance Petrochemicals project at Hazira?

Ghosh's decisions on these two contentious issues will indicate who is L&T's real boss. The outcome of the first round in the skirmish seems to be a draw. But the battle is far from over.—S.N. VASUKI

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Seasons change
A Classic is forever

The charm of
Mysore Sandal Classic
lingers all through the year.
Gently softening and
moisturising your skin.

Mysore Sandal

Classic

Come summer, monsoon or winter

This soap contains natural sandal oil, refined glycerine and 100% distilled base

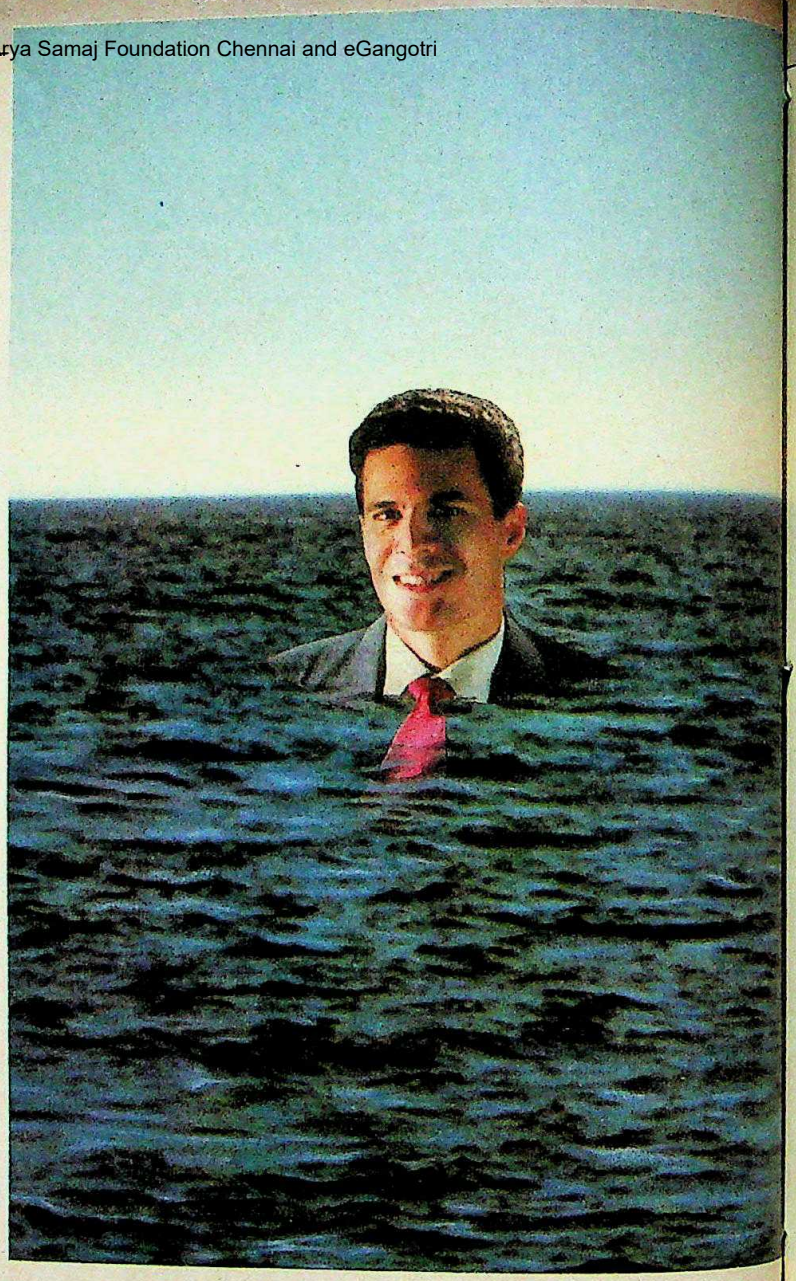
FROM THE HOUSE OF MYSORE SANDAL SOAP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Mudra:Blr:Msc:263:90

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE 'MAKE OR BREAK' TEST FOR A PRODUCT IS NOT ON THE TEST-BED, BUT IN THE UNFORESEEN CIRCUMSTANCES OF REAL LIFE.



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

When it comes to engineering firsts in industrial electrics and electronics in India, it is Kirloskar Electric which wrote the book almost single-handedly. We've stuck our necks out, burnt our fingers and done things that other companies considered impossible. But there's one particular first that taught us more than any book could: the 3.2 MVA, 11000/605 volts, class 'C' insulated dry type transformer.

In 1983 the Metro Railways in Calcutta, India's one and only underground rail transport system, asked us to design and manufacture a dry type transformer with the highest rating of its kind in the country.

Their brief was succinct: transformers play a critical role in the Metro system. Without them all loco-movement would come to a standstill. The closer a transformer is to a sub-station, the greater the energy savings. So they wanted our transformer located underground. It had to withstand highly fluctuating loads, have the most advanced standard of efficiency, be totally non-inflammable and require minimum maintenance.

Above all, they wanted it to be utterly reliable.

We are past masters at making transformers and delivered the Calcutta Metro order in 1984.

It was at this time that there was a deluge in Calcutta. Our transformer was totally submerged in water for 22 days. When the waters receded, the transformer was encrusted solid with silt and cement.

We brought the transformer back to our factory, cleaned the core coil assembly with water jets and dried it. The cement deposits however had hardened to the point where they could not be removed. Now for the moment of truth. No test in the world demanded that a transformer work after 22 days under water. Would our transformer take such an extraordinary beating and yet continue to function normally?

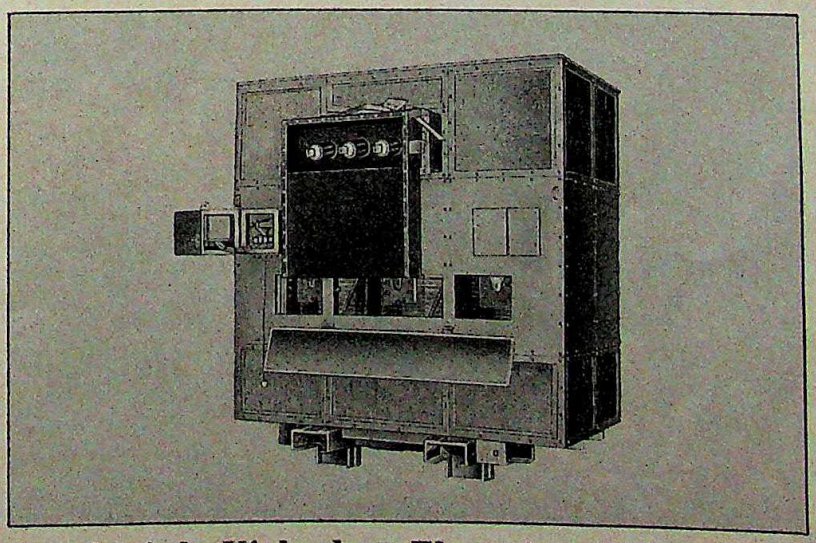
It did. It came through the ordeal by water by withstanding all high voltage tests successfully. We had not just made a conventional dry type transformer with the highest rating in the country but also with the greatest reliability. However, since the cement deposits on the windings would affect the cooling of coils, we replaced the old transformer with a new one.

But Kirloskar Electric is more than the sum of all the firsts it has earned over the years. We are India's leading industrial electrics and electronics company in the private sector. We make some of the finest standard AC and DC drives, transformers, welding equipment and systems, motorised gear units, equipment for defence, electronic control equipment, CNCs, etc. But the one single reason why we are the prime movers in our field is because the centre of gravity at Kirloskar Electric is the customer. Our hi-tech, engineering expertise, superior quality and reliability are all geared to anticipate and respond to his needs.

KIRLOSKAR ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

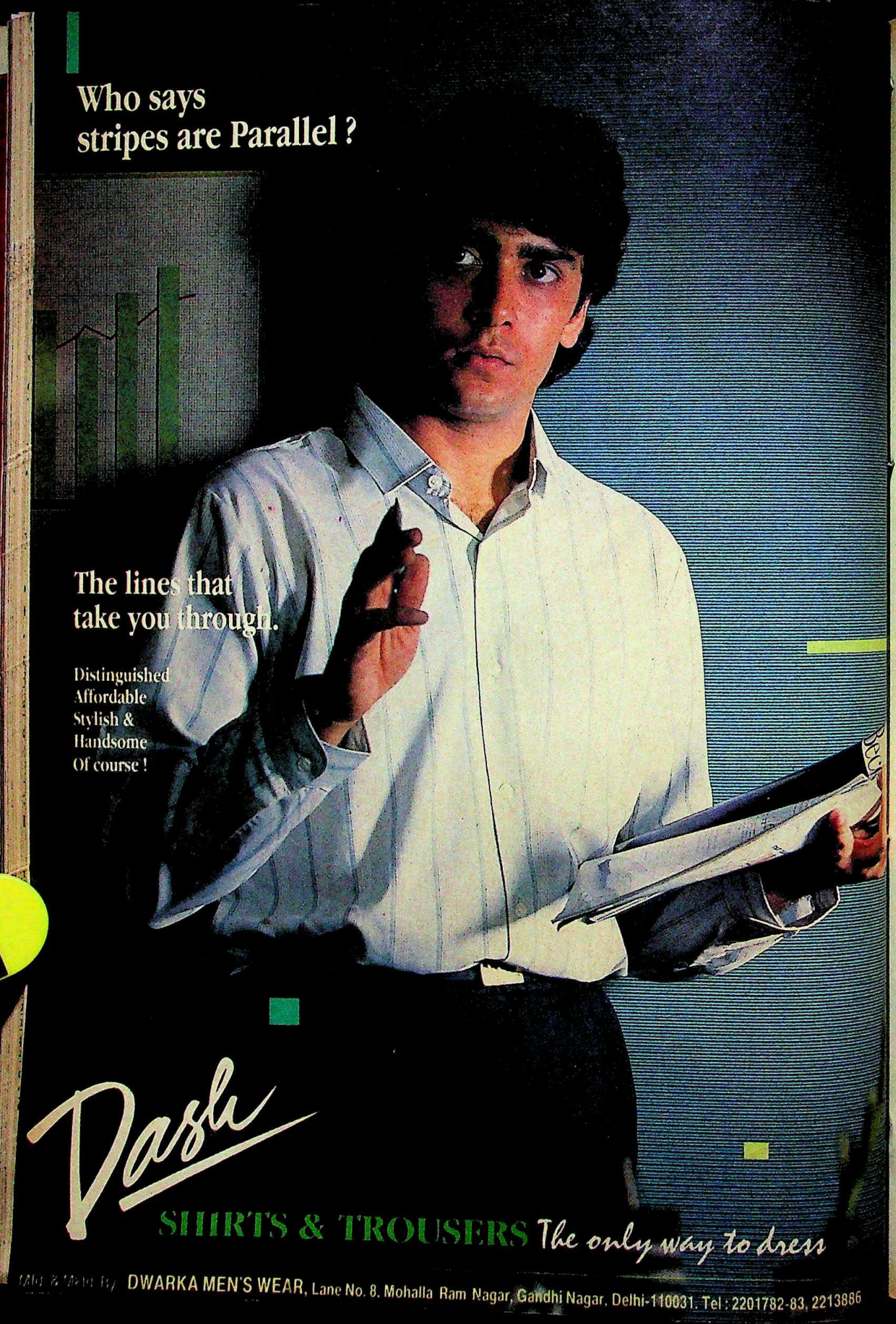
INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICS AND ELECTRONICS

Regd. Office : Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.



When nobody else can do the job, Kirloskar Electric will.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

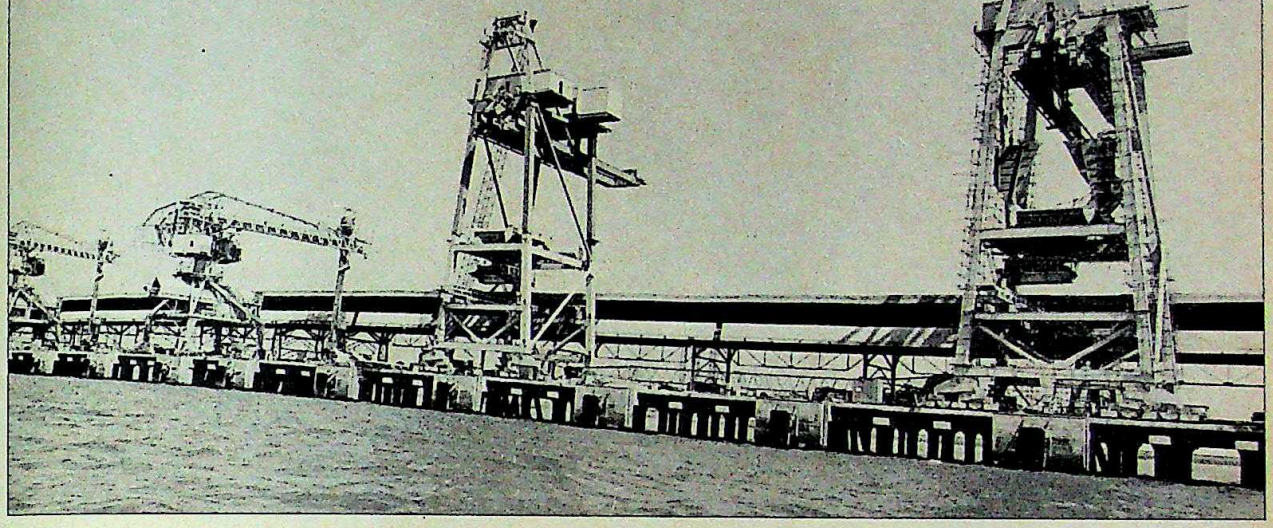

Who says
stripes are Parallel ?
The lines that
take you through.
Distinguished
Affordable
Stylish &
Handsome
Of course !
Dash
SHIRTS & TROUSERS The only way to dress
DWARKA MEN'S WEAR, Lane No. 8. Mohalla Ram Nagar, Gandhi Nagar, Delhi-110031. Tel : 2201782-83, 2213886

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

NAMAS BHOJANI

NHAVA-SHEVA PORT

A Dream Turns Sour



The port: white elephant

WHEN India's most modern port at Nhava-Sheva was commissioned on the eastern shore of Bombay harbour in May last year, it was hailed as a dream come true. The authorities proudly claimed the Rs 878-crore port would act as a major catalyst for expanding trade. But the dream is now threatening to turn sour.

One of the objectives behind building the sophisticated port was to eliminate manual handling. In fact, Nhava-Sheva, with its computerised systems, functions with only 1,100 workers against 41,000 workers employed at the neighbouring Bombay port. But less than a year after the port was commissioned, the machines are, ironically, proving to be more troublesome than men.

Says J.L. Thakkar, managing director of Dharamsi Morarji Chemical Co, an importer: "The port's integrated cargo handling systems have never been able to work for more than a week at a stretch." Even more startling is that capacity utilisation is barely 14 per cent. Though the port has an installed capacity of handling 59 lakh tonnes of cargo a year, including 30 lakh tonnes in containers, it handled barely seven lakh tonnes during the last 10 months of 1989-90, less than half the target.

The Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC), a prime user of the port, recently constituted a committee to go into the port's problems. In its report submitted last month, the committee pointed out that:

► The infrastructural facilities ... have not been developed fully so far.

► Cargo unloaders were being operated intermittently.

► Facilities for bulk loading of railway wagons were not fully operational.

► The system for bulk loading of trucks had not been synchronised.

► The automatic bagging facility was not working and such functions were being performed manually.

► Weigh-bridges were not working and trucks had to be taken to Panvel, 20 km away, for weighing.

1989-90 PERFORMANCE
(Cargo handled in lakh tonnes)

	Installed capacity	Target	Actual	Shortfall (%)
Containers	30	8.45	4.07	51.83
Bulk	29	7.00	2.91	58.43

The port management concedes that everything is not hunky-dory. Anna Malhotra, chairperson of Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, says it will take a few more months for operations to stabilise. "These are just teething problems," she claims. Users claim that Malhotra's remark is a gross understatement. The basic constraint, it seems, lies in the port's "integrated" handling systems—even if one system works, it does not help as it must be synchronised with the other systems. Shippers also complain that there is hardly any manual back-up when the automatic handling system fails, which is more often than not. And resorting to manual operations is both time-consuming and expensive.

When the port was commissioned, the trust had fixed a charge of Rs 205 a tonne for unloading, clearing and rake loading against an average charge of Rs 150 a tonne at Bombay port. Says Jayant Gaur, managing director of Unialkem Fertilisers: "We don't mind paying more if the work is done expeditiously." But that is not happening because of frequent breakdowns in the port's automatic cargo handling systems.

Importers claim that the authorities charge consignees for rake loading in advance, knowing fully well that their systems are not operational. Worse, demurrage is charged for delays in clearance even if the delays have been caused by the failure of handling systems. At least two public sector concerns, NAFED and Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers are said to have lost crores on this count.

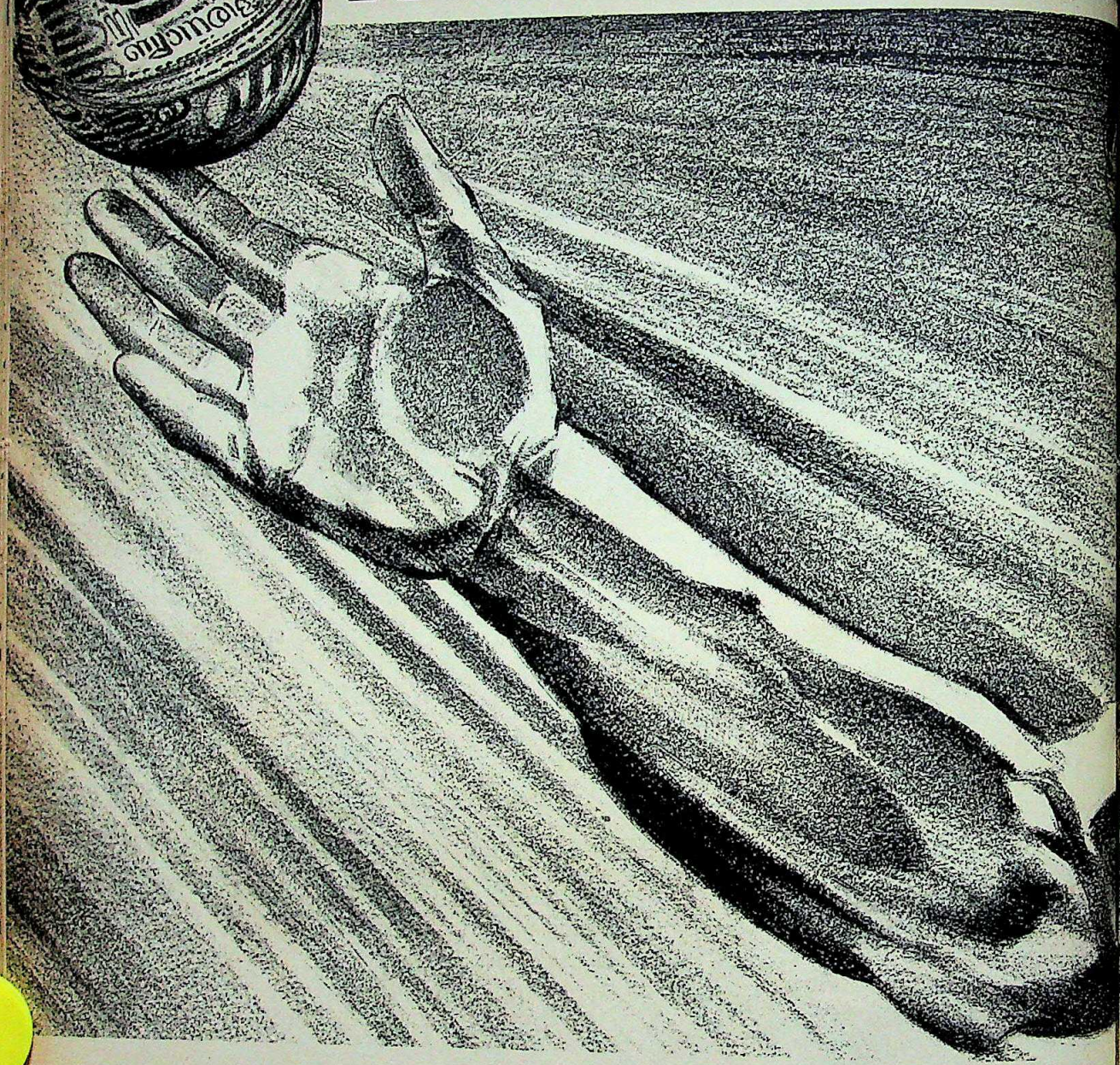
There are other instances of inefficiency. A ship *Jai Bhavani*, which docked in March, could not discharge its cargo of 27,000 tonnes of sulphur for 28 days as one of the grab unloaders got damaged after handling 4,000 tonnes. Another vessel, *Jagdish*, carrying 22,000 tonnes of rock phosphate could not be loaded into rakes or trucks as the conveyor system was not functioning.

To add to the woes of the importers, the absence of infrastructural facilities at the port hikes expenses further. For instance, transporters at Nhava-Sheva charge Rs 70 to Rs 80 a tonne more than the rates charged at Bombay

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE POWER OF



ADVERTISE IN MALAYALA MANORAMA WEEKL
AND WATCH 7 MILLION CUSTOMERS CATCH YOUR MESSAG

DIVE There isn't a better way to reach Malayalees than Malayala Manorama Week **REFLEX ACTION** In fact, more than half the Malayalee adult population make point to read every issue. **GRIP & CATCH** That's because readers find Malay Manorama Weekly's editorial mix of articles, short stories and serials so gripping, they can't put it down.

Source: Audit Bureau of Circulation.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

REACH.

EEKL
SAG

a Week
make
Malay
, they

HOWZZAT Little wonder then, when you advertise in Malayala Manorama Weekly, your message scores a rich haul with a lot more potential customers, than any other weekly in Kerala.

MALAYALA MANORAMA WEEKLY

INDIA'S LARGEST SELLING WEEKLY*

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA
EUROPE★
NEW YORK★

Enjoy Top Flight Comfort and Convenience When You Fly Kuwait Airways.

Comfort that comes from considerate, attentive service with a smile, delicious food with your choice of menu and the traditional hospitality that is a part of our heritage.

All this, plus a network of international sales offices, reliable direct flights, convenient connections and great schedules....

Providing you the best is a policy we're proud of.

DIRECT
BOMBAY-KUWAIT-Daily.
DELHI-KUWAIT-Thrice a week.
ONWARD TO.
LONDON-FRANKFURT-GENEVA-PARIS-U.S.A.
GULF-MIDDLE EAST-FAR EAST

For further information, call your IATA agent or
Kuwait Airways 86, Veer Nariman Road, Bombay 400 020
Tel: 2045351, 2041395, 2041612, 2049394, 2048580,
Telex: 011-2487 KAC IN
'HANSALAYA', 15, Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001
Tel: 3314221, 3314223, 3312920.

الخطوط الجوية الكويتية
KUWAIT AIRWAYS
The Challenge and the Change

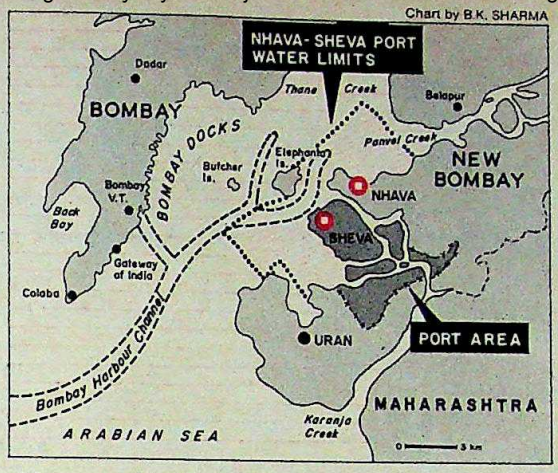
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

port. Reason: they have no cargo on their return journeys. And this is because the Nhava-Sheva port is currently being used mainly for imports, not exports. Truckers also complain of the absence of basic facilities at the deserted port township.

In what has been viewed as an arm-twisting tactic, the Government early this year decided to divert all dry bulk cargo imports from Bombay port to Nhava-Sheva. In fact, the MMTC has threatened to cancel importers' raw material quotas if they don't use the new port. Predictably, there is considerable resentment among the importers, particularly those in the fertiliser industry, as the use of the Nhava-Sheva port costs them an extra Rs 180 a tonne as compared to the Bombay port.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



Nhava-Sheva is supposed to be the most sophisticated port in the country. Its computers are supposed to be able to pinpoint the location of a single container in a 6,000-acre area. At the port, dry bulk cargo can be, if required, mechanically bagged and then transferred to railway wagons or waiting trucks, without any human hand touching it. No Indian port has such state-of-the-art facilities.

Situated in a natural harbour and sheltered from winds and waves, the port should have been successful from the word go. But so far it hasn't. Even on the day the port was formally inaugurated on May 26 last year, only three wagons could be loaded against the target of 203 wagons as the system broke down. The port management obviously has a lot to do before users are convinced that Nhava-Sheva is a truly high-tech port.

—N.K. SINGH in Bombay

EXPORTS

Illegal Drain

FOR several days, sleuths of the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) had been keeping a vigil on a silk saree shop situated on Marine Drive, Bombay. Early one morning, the DRI officers moved in, seizing a consignment that was leaving for the airport. A chemical test confirmed their suspicions: what was being sought to be passed off as silk fabric was actually made of viscose and nylon. The amount of tax evaded on this consignment: Rs 2.5 crore.

This is only one of the innumerable instances of export frauds which have been detected by the customs authorities in recent months. One estimate places the revenue lost on account of such frauds at a whopping Rs 1,000 crore a year. Most of the cases involve misuse of the Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) scheme, which allows a firm to import raw materials and components free of duty provided they are used in goods meant for export. Under the scheme, nearly Rs 1,500 crore of duty was exempted in 1988 and last year's figure was around Rs 2,000 crore. Customs officials claim that at least 30-40 per cent of the above amounts should not have been exempted as everything was not above board.

Bombay's Principal Collector, Customs, A.M. Sinha has classified DEEC scheme frauds into a number of broad categories *(see box)*. Says he: "The scheme is meant to boost exports, but certain unscrupulous operators are misusing it to defraud the exchequer."

The officials have unearthed cases involving duty evasion of Rs 10 crore where importers of cold-rolled cold-annealed (CRCA) steel have illegally sold the material in the domestic market at hefty premia. The goods exported by these concerns, instead of using imported CRCA steel, have used locally produced hot-rolled steel.

In one case of CRCA steel import, false addresses and a forged certificate from a chartered engineer were furnished to evade nearly Rs 5 crore as duty. In other cases, customs officials found that firms which had imported virgin synthetic fibre—on the ground that they would be exporting fabric—had actually exported waste by misdeclaring their export consignments.

The DRI has detected a case where a concern had imported chemicals and claimed duty drawback on the plea that it would be exporting zinc oxide. What actually left the country's shores was not zinc oxide—which costs Rs 11.25 a kg—but dolomite priced at Rs 1.25 a kg. In another instance, ready-made thin-walled bearings were misclassified as semi-finished components.

The advance licensing and DEEC schemes, first introduced 12 years ago, have undergone numerous modifications over the years and are today extremely complex. Because of loopholes in the law and lax enforcement, many importers have got away by selling goods in local markets without adding value to them. This violates the entire purpose of allowing imports at concessional or nil rates of duty.

Sinha suggests the licensing authorities insist that original documents be provided by the concerns before licences are issued, instead of certificates by chartered accountants and engineers. Also, he feels a verification cell should be set up to ascertain the credentials of the importers and exporters. Whether such measures will stem the illegal drain of hard currency remains to be seen.

—RAGHU NANDAN DHAR

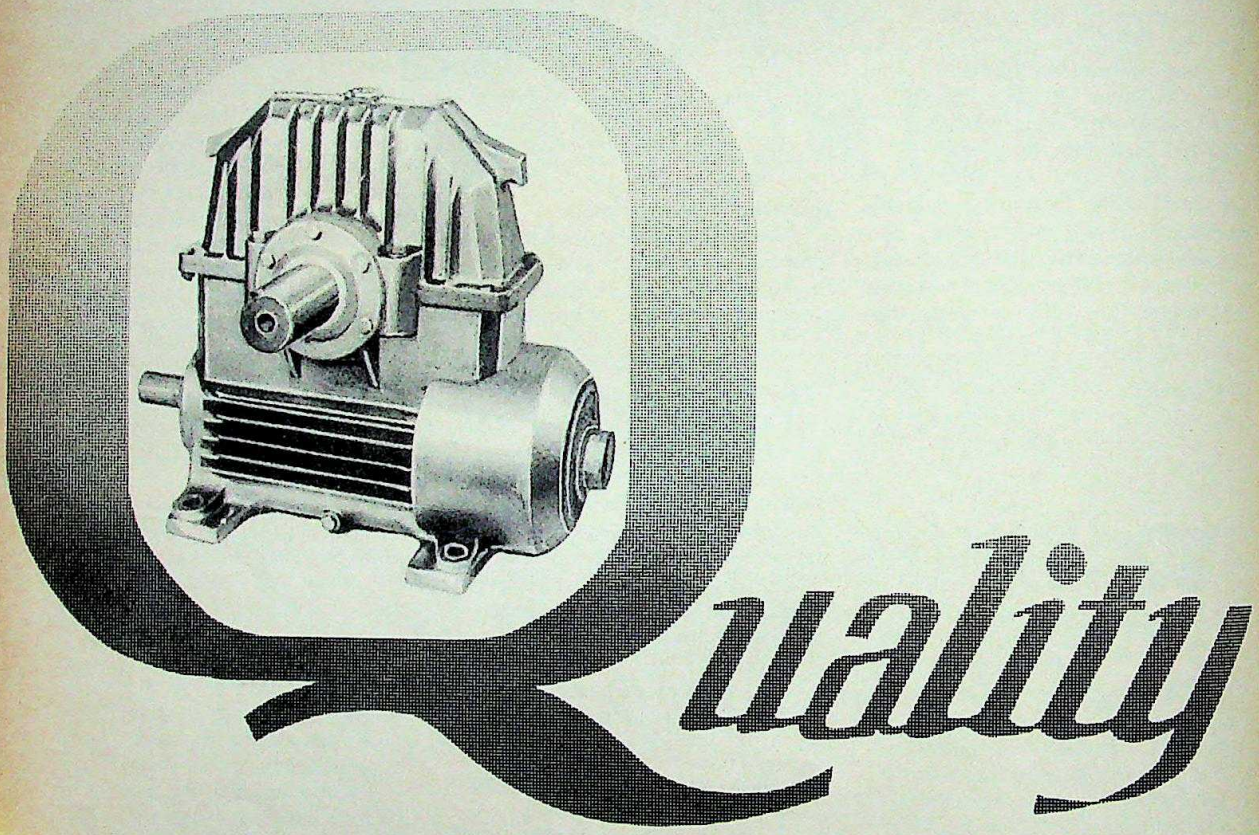
TYPES OF EXPORT FRAUDS

- Non-existent Duty Exemption Entitlement Certificate (DEEC) holders obtain advance licences for imports by furnishing fictitious information.
- Outright sales of goods imported by DEEC holders in the domestic market.
- The technical characteristics of the goods imported are different from the specifications of export consignments.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Matchless



Backed by over thirty years of continuous research and development

ALLROYD 'S' Series

WORM REDUCTION GEAR BOXES

Manufactured with state-of-the-art technology. Surpass all other competitors in technical features and H.P. rating.

naw

NEW ALLENBERRY WORKS
PROP. DEEPAK INDUSTRIES LTD.
62, HAZRA ROAD, CALCUTTA 700 019
PHONE:753651 (3 LINES)
GRAM: GEARBOX
TELEX: 21-3239 NAW IN. FAX: 033-289382

BOMBAY OFFICE •
Phone: 23-0232, 23-1808
Gram: ALLENBERRY
Telex: 11-5662 NAWB

BANGALORE OFFICE •
Phone: 56-4759, Gram: GEARBOX

NEW DELHI OFFICE •
Phone: 33-21646, 33-20516, 33-21934, Gram: ALLROYD
Telex: 3161017 NAWD

HYDERABAD OFFICE •
Phone: 23-7109
Gram: ALLENBERRY

KANPUR OFFICE •
Phone: 210331, Gram: OPTIMAX

MADRAS OFFICE •
Phone: 52-7721, Gram: ALLROYD
Telex: 41-6963 NAW

Pioneer in Gear Technology. Leader too.

PPS/NW/490

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BHILAI

Short on Ore

Crisis over mechanisation

JAWAHARLAL Nehru called it the pride of the nation. Since its inception 30 years ago, the Rs 2,130-crore Bhilai steel plant has fed industries not only in India but across the world. The plant's rails are used in railway networks of 17 countries in five continents.

Bhilai's annual production capacity was expanded from 2.5 million tonnes to four million tonnes in 1988 and this figure is slated to go up to five million tonnes. But there's a catch: the plant is currently facing a crisis in obtaining supplies of iron ore. Which is ironical, because "it was the availability of the iron ore which had brought us here, 800 km away from the coalfields, in the first place," E.R.C. Sekhar, Bhilai's managing director points out.

Ideally, the Bhilai plant should have a fortnight's stock of ore with a similar quantity stored at mine pit-heads. But for the last two months, it has not had more than five days' stock while the stock at the mines has been barely equal to two days' production. "It's a hand-to-mouth existence," says assistant general manager T.R. Venkateshan.

This year, Bhilai will require six million tonnes of ore, but the captive mines at Dalli-Rajhara cannot supply more than 5.7 million tonnes. The plant management believes that mechanisation of mining operations is the only way to augment supplies. "Manual raising would neither give the desired quality nor quantity," claims Sekhar. But the powerful union of miners led by the radical Shankar Guha Niyogi is strongly opposed to mechanisation on the ground that it would threaten thousands of jobs in the manually-operated mines.

What is unfolding at Dalli-Rajhara is a classic struggle between man and machine. Last year when the authorities tried to instal a new crushing, screening and washing plant, they had to halt construction in the face of stiff opposition from workers.

Construction of the new facilities started after a year's delay and only after the miners were promised additional facilities—which will inflate the wage bill by about Rs 4 crore—as well as a written assurance that those employed in existing manual mines will be retained till their superannuation.

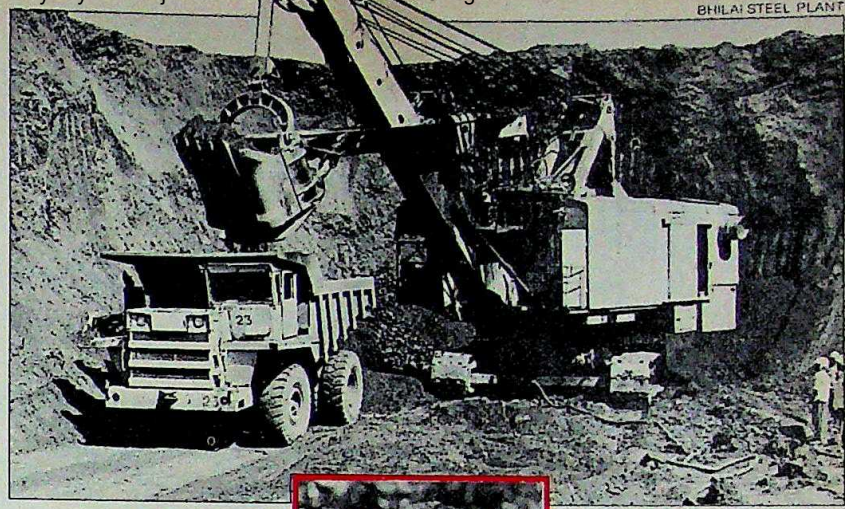
Still, the situation continues to be explosive. "We are ready for a showdown," asserts Sekhar. Retorts Niyogi: "Accepting additional screening and washing facilities does not mean that we have accepted mechanisation."

While he may be intensely disliked by the management, Niyogi is undoubtedly the workers' messiah. He has managed to secure a better deal for contractors' labourers engaged in the steel plant. Then, his Chhattisgarh Mines Shramik Sangh has created irrigation facilities in surrounding villages, opened a hospital and schools. All this has made him a force to reckon with. Declares Niyogi grandly: "We want to create a new man here."

Rhetoric apart, Niyogi does have a point when he opposes mechanisation. Although the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL), which controls Bhilai, has promised that no miner would be retrenched following mechanisation, past experience has shown that this is a hollow claim. When the Rajhara section of the mines was earlier mechanised, the workforce came down from 3,500 to 500. And in the nearby Bailadilla iron ore mines in Bastar, 10,000 workers got the sack after machines took over.

This is why Niyogi's union has suggested semi-mechanisation, which involves manual excavation of the ore coupled with mechanical processing. The experiment was, in fact, taken up for two years during the Janata regime. Claims Niyogi: "We've demonstrated that semi-mechanisation can guarantee a reduction in cost of production while generating employment." The rival CPI controlled Samyukta Khadan Mazdoor Sangh is also against the so-called "blind policy" of mechanisation.

BHILAI STEEL PLANT



Mechanised mines at Rajhara; (inset) Niyogi

But the plant authorities disagree. They contend that manual mining is costly, does not meet the plant's requirements and produces ore of an inferior quality. And the latest figures of SAIL reveal that while the per tonne cost of iron ore at the Rajhara mechanised mines is Rs 90, at the Dalli semi-mechanised mines it is Rs 146 and in the manual mines at Kokan and Jharandalli it is Rs 109 and Rs 127. Obviously full mechanisation reduces costs even more.

Niyogi, on the other hand, charges the management with fudging figures and points out that closure of manual operations would shatter the area's economy and render thousands jobless. The 7,000 workers and their families constitute nearly a third of Dalli-Rajhara's population, he points out. Management spokesmen, however, contend that if the Bhilai plant is to merely provide employment, all talk about improving productivity, profitability and efficiency should stop.

But J.L. Thakur, a former MLA and union activist, points out that most of the workers are tribals whose lands and forests were destroyed to make way for mining operations. Says he: "Earlier they became daily-wage earners in the name of national development and now they will be turned into bonded labourers in the name of efficiency."

The debate continues. But thanks to their newly-found militancy, the miners have won a tactical victory. "We've said categorically that not a single worker would be retrenched," says Sekhar. For the moment at least, man is holding his own against the machine.—N.K. SINGH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TRIED. TESTED. TRUSTED.

By Rajdoot, Hero Honda, Yamaha, TVS Suzuki, Kawasaki Bajaj, Bullet, Yezdi, TVS 50, Hero Puch and...

BY EVERY TWO-WHEELER MANUFACTURER IN INDIA

Stay with the original!

TI Diamond Chain Ltd.

A TI subsidiary. In collaboration with Diamond Chain Co., USA.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

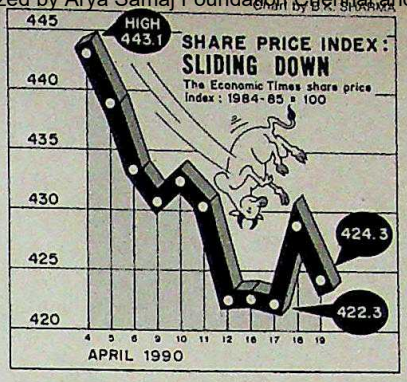
THE MARKETS

Bearish Mood

Share indices plummet

THE actions of the two biggest players in the country's capital markets—the Unit Trust of India (UTI) and the Life Insurance Corporation (LIC)—were to a great extent responsible for the depressed mood that prevailed last fortnight. Compounding the woes of investors were the war noises emanating from the capital. The result: values of share indices plummeted and prices were fairly unsteady at the close of trading on April 19.

The first moves initiated by the new UTI Chairman S.A. Dave had a decidedly bearish impact on scrip prices. On a single day, April 5, the state-owned UTI is believed to have offloaded shares worth over Rs 25 crore. Such a selling spree has not been witnessed in recent times. If UTI's decision was aimed at keeping share prices in check following the announcement of the budget proposals, market observers claimed that scrip values would, in any case, have come down even without market intervention. Thus



the so-called Dave Effect merely heightened bearish sentiments.

As far as LIC was concerned, it finally decided to settle its dispute with the Reliance group over control of Larsen & Toubro (L&T) after weeks of bitter bickering. "All's well that ends well," commented Anil Ambani wryly after his father, Dhirubhai Ambani, agreed to step down as L&T chairman in favour of former State Bank of India chairman D.N. Ghosh on April 19. And, simultaneously, LIC withdrew its notice calling for a shareholders' meeting to remove four Reliance nominees from L&T's board of directors.

But the market was apparently not amused. And L&T share prices fell after having modestly recovered from a downward slide the previous day. Over the fortnight, the company's scrip lost Rs 18 to close at Rs 75—a far cry from the peak of Rs 122 that it touched earlier in the year.

On April 4, *The Economic Times* (ET) all-India share index had hit a post-budget high of 443.1. The next day saw UTI going in for large-scale sales. Then Prime Minister V.P. Singh sounded a warning about a possible war with Pakistan. And the markets collapsed. The ET index slumped to 430.7 on April 9, recovered the next day and then crashed further to 422.3 on April 17. The following day, the index picked up only to fall again.

The story was repeated in the case of the Bombay Stock Exchange's (BSE) national index which lost nearly 17 points (from 431.61 to 414.93) in the five days between April 4 and 9. The BSE index then came down further to 407.31 on April 17, went up to 413.80 the next day and slid again to 409.35 the day after.

All in all, it was a period of uncertainty. As the nation worried about the ominous war clouds gathering on the country's borders, investors remained distinctly downbeat about what the coming weeks would portend.

ACTIVE STOCKS

	1990 HIGH	1990 LOW	CLOSE 20.4.90	Change in Fortnight
Ashok Leyland	99.00	69.50	80.00	3.00 +
Associated Cement	443.00	325.00	432.00	12.00 +
Asian Paints	255.00	207.50	228.75	3.75 +
Atlas Copco	48.00	32.50	34.00	1.00 +
Bajaj Auto	450.00	355.00	433.75	6.25 +
Baroda Rayon	910.00	617.50	857.50	10.00 +
Bata India	83.00	62.50	77.00	4.50 –
Ballarpur	161.00	120.00	145.00	3.00 –
Birla Jute	72.00	50.50	69.50	nil
Blow Plast	57.50	34.50	48.75	nil
Bombay Dyeing	231.00	173.00	201.00	2.00 –
Britannia Ind.	119.00	97.00	116.00	2.00 +
Brooke Bond	118.00	91.00	114.00	2.00 –
Century Textiles	3420.00	2420.00	3160.00	90.00 +
Chloride India	92.00	82.50	88.00	3.00 –
Colgate Palmolive	233.75	176.25	210.00	5.00 –
Cyanamid	115.00	87.50	95.00	nil
DCM	60.00	45.50	56.75	1.50 –
Dunlop	75.50	51.75	56.00	1.50 –
E.I. Hotels	65.25	57.50	60.00	nil
Escorts	90.00	77.75	85.00	2.50 –
Finolex Cables	282.50	202.50	212.50	17.50 –
Nestle India	129.00	101.75	119.00	6.00 –
Garware Nylon	69.00	49.00	52.00	2.00 –
G.E. Shipping	54.75	44.00	50.25	0.50 +
G.S.F.C.	195.00	155.00	173.75	2.50 +
Grasim Ind.	130.00	106.00	123.50	1.00 +
Hind. Aluminium	292.50	205.00	281.25	10.00 +
Hind. Ciba	1660.00	960.00	1270.00	20.00 +
Cadbury India	172.50	133.75	154.00	1.00 +
Hindustan Lever	125.00	101.00	112.50	0.50 – *
Hindustan Motors	31.30	19.80	26.50	0.50 +
ICI India Ltd.	49.50	35.25	38.50	1.50 –
Indian Organic	58.75	46.50	50.00	0.50 +
Indian Rayon	113.50	84.00	106.50	1.50 +
Indrol	246.25	161.25	207.50	2.50 +
Ingersoll-Rand	245.00	190.00	220.00	10.00 –
ITC	69.00	48.75	69.00	5.25 +
J.K. Synthetics	67.00	50.00	57.00	3.00 –
Kinetic Engineering	155.00	130.00	145.00	5.00 –
Kirloskar Cummins	90.00	65.00	75.00	4.00 –
KSB Pumps	227.50	190.00	225.00	nil
Larsen & Toubro	122.00	57.00	75.00	18.00 –
Lipton	112.00	83.00	91.00	2.00 –
LML Ltd.	21.00	15.00	16.25	1.25 –
Madura Coats	115.50	100.50	114.00	1.50 –
Mahindra & Mahindra	103.00	67.50	87.50	5.00 +
Milk Food	280.00	170.00	180.00	25.00 –
Motor Industries	1200.00	785.00	860.00	nil
Mukand Ltd.	157.00	127.00	134.00	3.00 +
National Organic	1660.00	1070.00	1280.00	nil
Nirlon	22.00	14.00	16.00	1.00 –
Orkay Silk Mills	20.50	14.50	16.00	0.50 +
Pelco Electronics	32.50	24.00	28.00	1.50 –
Pfizer	113.75	72.50	76.00	1.50 –
Premier Auto	74.50	53.50	59.50	0.50 –
Ranbaxy	110.00	86.25	96.25	1.25 –
Raymond	87.50	70.00	80.50	0.50 –
Reliance Industries	90.00	50.00	74.00	14.00 +
Siemens India	123.50	96.00	112.00	4.00 –
Shaw Wallace	92.00	65.00	87.00	5.00 +
Shriram Fibres	71.00	51.25	57.00	nil
SKF Bearings	1570.00	1240.00	1350.00	10.00 –
SPIC	62.00	50.75	57.50	1.50 –
Tata Steel	136.50	103.25	124.50	1.00 –
Telco	145.50	110.00	145.00	12.00 +
Vam Organic	167.50	132.50	142.50	2.50 –
Videocon Int.	220.00	105.00	212.50	15.00 +
Voltas	78.50	63.00	74.00	2.50 –
Wimco	32.50	15.75	16.50	2.50 –

*Ex-dividend

WORLD VALUE OF RUPEE

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	UNIT	TT Selling Rates Rs	TT Buying Rates Rs
Australia	Dollar	1	13.4408	13.2931
Austria	Shilling	100	146.9853	145.7429
Bahrain	Dinar	1	46.4576	45.3721
Bangladesh	Taka	100	52.7927	52.0888
Canada	Dollar	1	14.9799	14.8185
Denmark	Kroner	1	2.7255	2.6952
Egypt	Pound	1	6.7526	6.6313
France	Franc	1	3.1299	3.0534
Hong Kong	Dollar	1	2.2358	2.2124
Indonesia	Rupiah	100	0.9546	0.9396
Iran	Rial	100	25.5368	25.2559
Italy	Lira	100	1.4141	1.3961
Japan	Yen	100	11.2108	10.9290
Kenya	Shilling	1	0.7641	0.7555
Kuwait	Dinar	1	59.4594	57.4713
Malaysia	Dollar	1	6.4015	6.3329
Mauritius	Rupee	1	1.1851	1.1689
Nepal	Rupee	1	0.6081	0.5997
Netherlands	Guilder	1	9.2324	9.1273
Pakistan	Rupee	1	0.8179	0.8057
Singapore	Dollar	1	9.2866	9.1856
Spain	Peseta	1	0.1644	0.1620
Sri Lanka	Rupee	1	0.4361	0.4310
Sweden	Kroner	1	2.8678	2.8362
Switzerland	Franc	1	11.7396	11.6104
Tanzania	Shilling	1	0.0942	0.0907
Thailand	Baht	100	67.5256	66.0589
UK	Pound	1	28.5551	28.3447
USA	Dollar	1	17.4216	17.2414
UAE	Dirham	1	4.7457	4.6928
USSR	Rouble	1	28.0767	27.7639
W. Germany	Deutschmark	1	10.5263	10.2669

These rates were supplied by The Bank of Tokyo Limited, New Delhi and quoted between the banks on 20.4.90.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

To double the earning power of your savings account, cut this ad in half.

The SmartMoneyAccount. 10% interest instead of the usual 5% which you get from an ordinary savings account. How does it work?

Simple. Say, you've deposited Rs. 10,000. At 10% p.a. you earn Rs. 1000 in a year. OK, but what if you need to withdraw? No problem. Say, you withdraw Rs. 6000. On this, you pay overdraft interest at 12% p.a. Which works out to Rs. 720. However, your Rs. 1000 (interest on the original deposit) keeps coming. So, your net income is Rs. 1000–Rs. 720 = Rs. 280. In the case of an ordinary savings account, you would have earned 5% interest on your balance of Rs. 4000. That is, only Rs. 200. So, quick! Cut out the coupon. Because, idleness can be costly.

HongkongBank AnyTime Money

Get a FREE AnyTimeMoney Card with your SmartMoneyAccount. For instant banking, round-the-clock.

SmartMoneyAccount

HongkongBank
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

AnyTimeMoney Facility not available in Visakhapatnam

Yes! Each day costs me half the earning power of my savings. Hurry, send me more information on how I can make my money

S1 M3 A1 R1 T1

Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____ Tel _____

fold here

IT 1

To,
The Customer Service Officer
HongkongBank
52-60 M.G. Road
Bombay 400 001.

fold to stick

Business Reply
Inland Letter Card

No postage stamp necessary if posted in India

Permit No BY-S-381 Bombay GPO Bombay 400 001

Postage will be paid by addressee

HKB SMA P 8 2517

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SHARAD SAXENA

Players at the trials: farcical

HOCKEY

Crippling Crisis

As senior players rebel, the game faces sudden death

AFTER cricket, it is hockey's turn. The action continues to spill on to the political sidelines of the Indian sporting arena. Last fortnight, just when Indian hockey administrators and players should have been busy re-laying the splintered foundations of the national game, they were sparring with each other. Worse, the warfare took place at a time when Indian hockey is faced with a do-or-die situation: the eight-time Olympic champions have to win the Asiad gold to directly qualify for the Olympics.

Yet, the fracas was only a logical consequence of the mutual name-calling that followed the disaster at the Lahore World Cup in February where India finished 10th. The coach blamed the players; the players blamed the Indian Hockey Federation (IHF); and the IHF, in turn, responded by summarily throwing out senior players from the team and to add insult to injury announced open selection trials. Thirty three senior players came under the banner of the Association of Indian Hockey Players (AIHP) and boycotted the farcical trials held in New Delhi. Their demands include Rs 100 a day and first class rail fare for All-India meets and $10 a day for the Indira Gandhi Gold Cup held at Lucknow.

The IHF recovered quickly and counter attacked. Said R. Prasad, IHF president: "Am I a beggar to be obliged to go in for a compromise. The players must first think of serving their country." Counters Pargat Singh, AIHP president: "Is there anyone who would not want to play for the country?"

Support for the players has also come from hockey heroes of the past. "What has Prasad done for the country? The players' demands are genuine," said a disturbed Ajitpal Singh, legendary centre-half who led India to its only World Cup victory in Kuala Lumpur in 1975.

The atmosphere of gloom that hung over the National Stadium as the half-hearted trials were conducted—126 aspirants, some of whom hadn't played for their state, were put into different teams and tried out for half-hour stretches in the morning and evening—was indication that Indian hockey has to dribble past a crowd of problems to put a strong team together. "Such trials are useless," said Ashok Kumar, former international winger. The selectors, however, tried to put up a brave face. Said Leslie Claudius, one of the selectors: "It is not an easy job. But I don't think there is a vast difference between these players and the top ones."

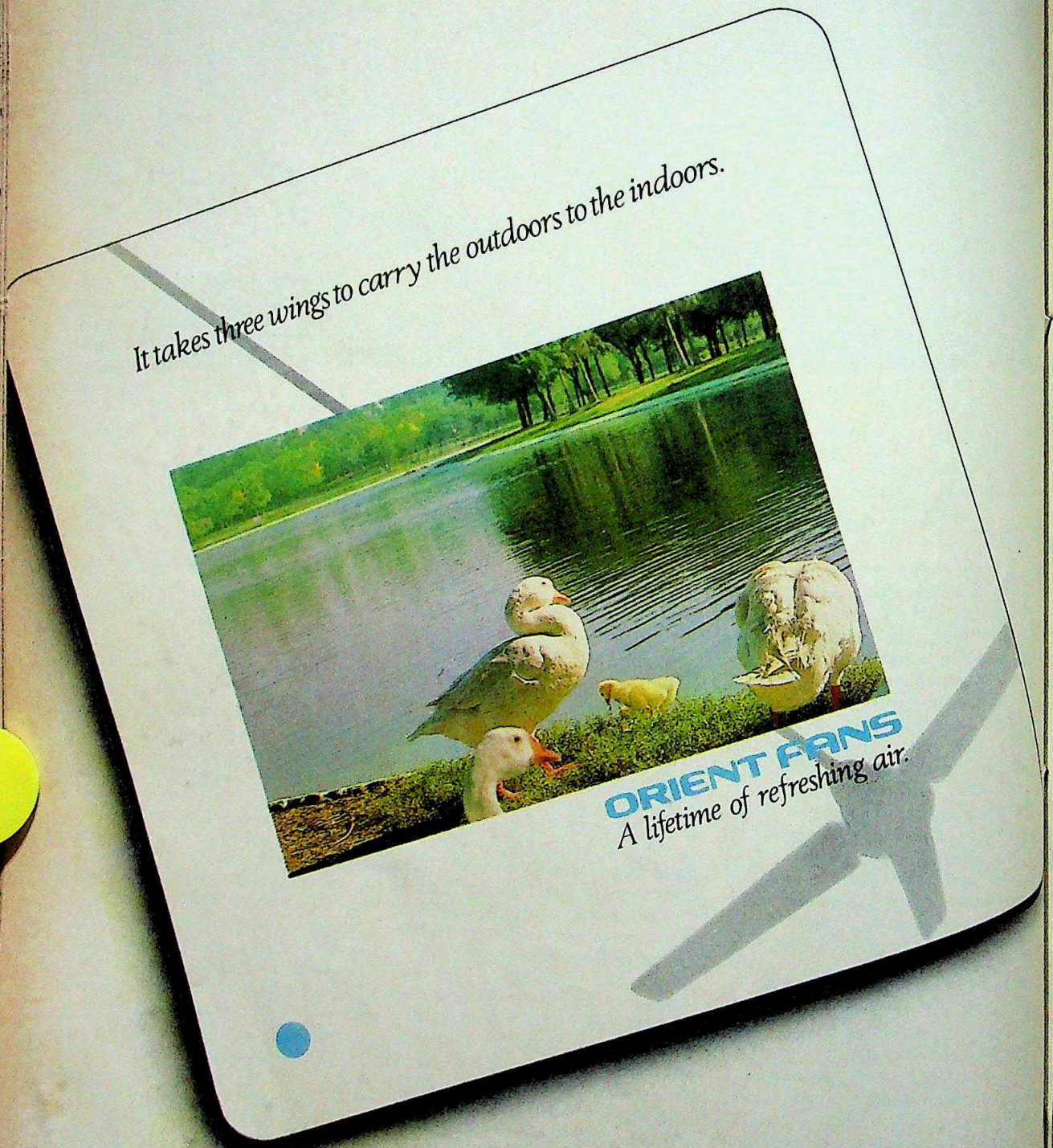
If the selection trials were farcical, the team which has to play at the invitation BMW tournament in Holland next month, and perhaps even at the Beijing Asiad, presents an open invitation for slaughter on the astro-turf. Among the 40 shortlisted are only seven who have donned Indian jerseys and many among those selected could pull out later if no compromise is worked out. Said one player: "I don't think I will play. I came here because my employers asked me to." Others came only because they were threatened with a five-year ban by their state associations.

A team drawn from this shortlist will have a hard time getting government clearance for foreign travel. Particularly as, at the other end of the spectrum, the IHF is also involved in a row with the Sports Authority of India which accuses it of not sticking to norms. But the IHF is in no mood to relent. And adding to the problems is the choice of Udham Singh, 60, as national coach as he hasn't had much exposure to international hockey. But as Prasad says: "Who else is there?"

The fact is the IHF didn't try hard enough. There have been attempts to bring in European coaches, but in 1988 when West German coach Klaus Kleiter agreed to come without charging any-

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

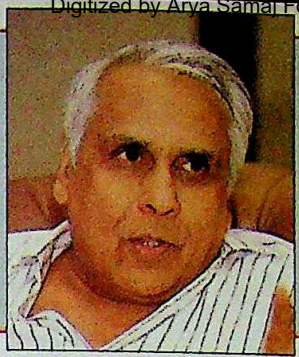


CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ASP-D/OGI/10/90 ENG

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"Am I a beggar to be obliged to go in for a compromise? Players must first serve the country."
R. PRASAD
President IHF


SHARAD SAXENA

PRASHANT PANJIAR

"Who would not want to play for the country? The IHF's attitude is not positive."
PARGAT SINGH
President AIHP

thing the IHF failed to respond. Attempts to bring in Dutch coaches Hanf Joritsma (who coached the Dutch team that won the Lahore World Cup) and Joost Bellart this year also did not succeed. Said sports commentator Anupam Ghulati, who had negotiated with these coaches: "Foreign coaches have to be hired at least to give clinics to our coaches about new techniques." But not everyone agrees. Says selector and famed winger V.J. Philips: "We don't need foreign coaches. We are still the masters."

If the situation off the field is chaotic, on the field too Indians grope around like novices. The report by M.P. Ganesh, who resigned as national coach after the Lahore debacle, said: "We conceded 18 goals because of bad goal-keeping, poor tackling, losing possession of the ball because of lack of confidence, wrong passes and faulty clearances."

And even though much attention had been given for nearly a decade to learn the fine art of converting penalty corners, as Claudius points out: "We still lack precision." Ten sketches of penalty corner patterns were given to the team by a core committee before the World Cup, but even the four plans that the team finally tried out in Lahore were predictable and stale.

Hockey's future in the country is dim as fame and money today are confined to cricket, according to those like Claudius. And unless professional managers with a positive attitude are given charge of the game, the future of India's national game will be a continuing litany of epitaphs.

—BINOO K. JOHN

ARCHERY

Bull's Eye

FOUR years ago, Shyam Lal, 20, was an ordinary farmer in Banswada district of Rajasthan who was rather adept with the bamboo bows used by his tribe for hunting. Things began to change after he was picked up by the talent scouts of the Sports Authority of India (SAI), along with Limba Ram, 18, from Udaipur.

Last fortnight, the pictures of the tribal duo, smiling in victory, were splashed on sports pages. Along with team-mate Sanjeev Singh, 26, an engineer employed with Tata Steel, they won the gold in the team events at the inaugural five-nation Federation Cup crossing a major milestone on the way to the Beijing Asiad in September. Said Shyam Lal: "We'll try to perform well and win medals in Beijing." Sanjeev echoed this feeling: "We are sure to win a medal in team events."

The Indians scored 914 points in the team competition against China's 901. Said coach Suman Das: "Though all of them shot well, I expected a better score."

The team's confidence is not misplaced. The tribals, picked up under SAI's Special Areas Games Programme (SAGP), have been shaping up well and even the second string Indian team is fast catching up with them. And Vesuzolu S. Wuro, a 17-year-old tribal girl from Nagaland who was adopted by SAI only 10 months ago, reached the semi-finals of the individual events. In the men's individual events, Shyam Lal missed a silver when he lost to China's Liang Quizhong by three points in the tie-breaker. Said B.V.P. Rao who devised the SAGP: "The results are encouraging but constant effort is needed."

(From left) Sanjeev, Limba and Shyam: valiant effort

PRASHANT PANJIAR

But the team members and managers are not getting complacent. Warns Rao: "Winning in the Asiad is close to winning in the Olympics because we have the Olympic champions South Korea in our continent. We can't sit back and relax."

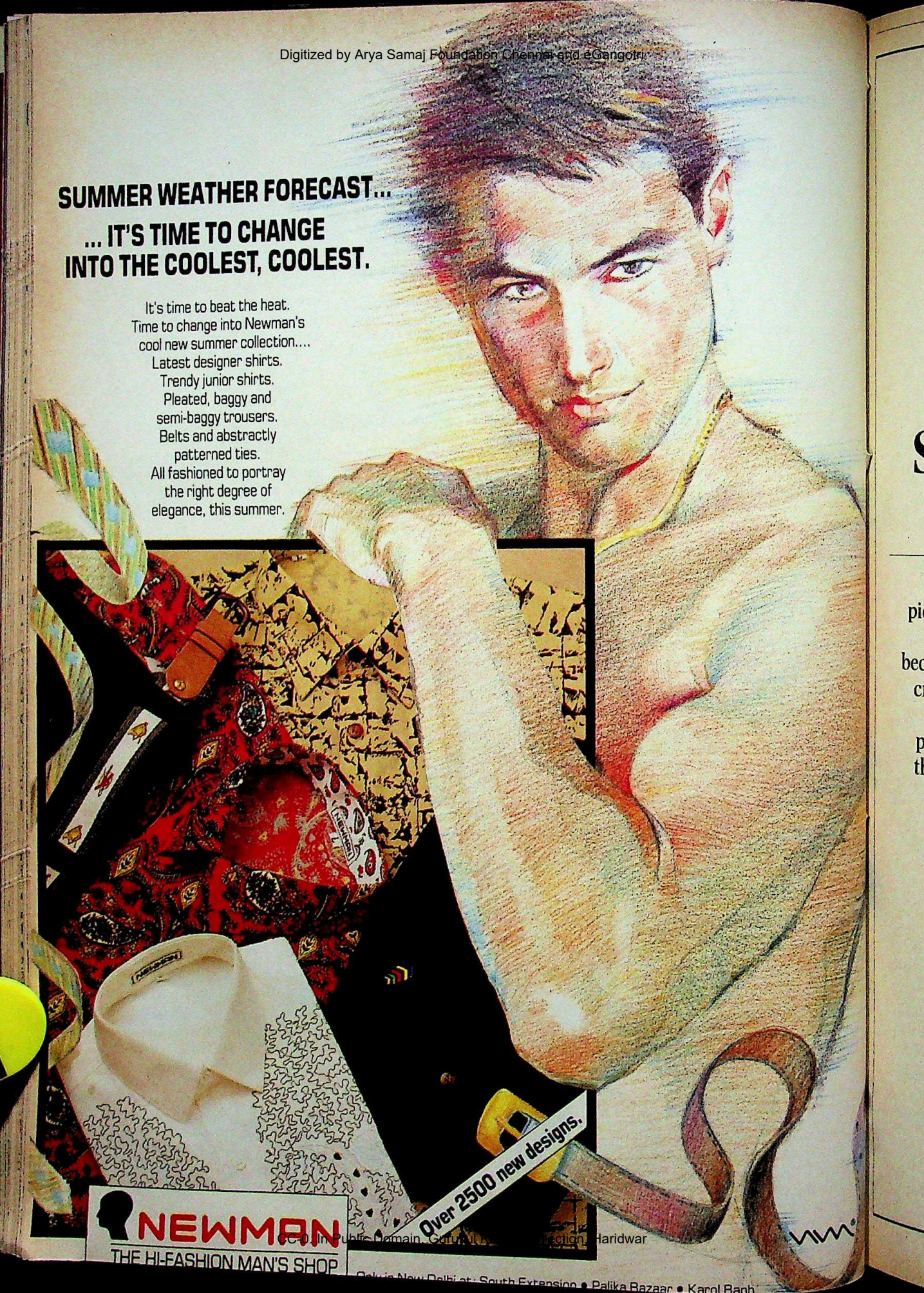
Relaxing they aren't. To prepare the team to meet the South Korean challenge in the team events at the Asiad—they scored 986 points to win the Olympic gold—the SAI has once again sought the services of Russian coach Alexandre Nikolive who had trained the team earlier. The team is being sent to China and the USSR to gear up for the Asiad.

The fact that India had beaten South Korea—with two of the three archers who had got them the Olympic gold—in the Beijing Asian championship in 1989 is reason enough for optimism. Vijay Kumar Malhotra, the president of the Archery Association of India, even feels that the archers could win India its first Olympic gold medal, outside hockey. If Indian archers continue to hit the bull's eye with as much precision as they have been doing, there is no reason why this dream can't be fulfilled.

—HARPAL SINGH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Palika New Delhi at: South Extension • Palika Bazaar • Karol Bagh

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Selection Follies

If rather than pick the team on merit, selectors prefer to become the sword-arm of cricket administration in the war against players, the least that they can do is to keep their mouths shut.

SOME cricketers like to play from the frontfoot and some from the backfoot but India is blessed with a few who specialise in the art of playing with the foot in the mouth. Raj Singh Dungarpur, the chairman of the National Selection Committee, is a virtuoso in this category.

India has an illustrious history of selectors who would have found it embarrassing to justify their frequent decisions to change and chop the team without any reason, or to continue patronising non-performing favourites. Mercifully in the past the BCCI did not permit selectors to speak to the press. But in the aftermath of the court battle with the players last year, the chairman of the selection committee was authorised to explain his decisions to the press.

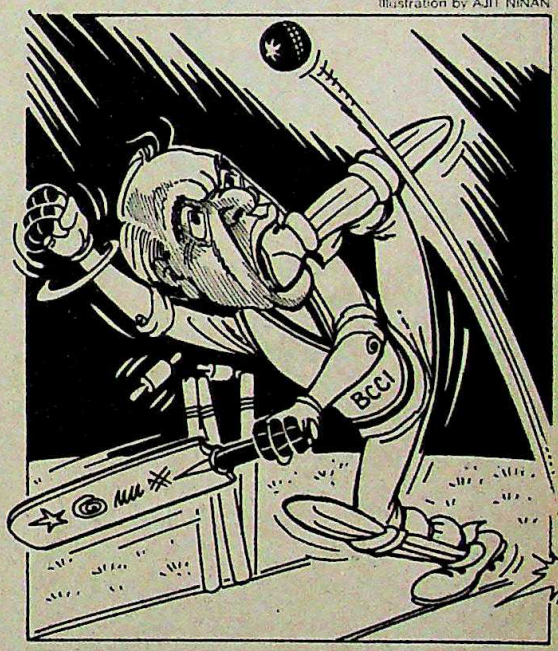
Dungarpur promptly went dancing down the wicket, head high up in the air, much in the manner of a tail-ender wielding the long handle, and explained his selections thus: Raman Lamba was chosen despite his lack of class because he was so lucky and "gets away with offering Charlie Chaplin catches". Salil Ankola was selected because Manager Chandu Borde said he would "look after him personally". Srikkanth was expected to give the team a new direction with his "aggressive leadership". Manindar Singh was "lucky" to be included as he "really wasn't my choice". Vivek Razdan, with no first-class cricket experience was taken because the great Dennis Lillee had spoken well of him.

How times change, and along with it people, even the kinds whose verbal abilities are believed to far exceed their cricketing ones. While offering a brand new squad for the New Zealand tour, which he himself hailed as the team of the '90s, Dungarpur pompously claimed he was giving Indian cricket a new direction. This irrespective of the fact that the team had a higher average age than the one supposedly consisting of old fogies he had sent out to Pakistan. The "youngsters" he said were going to chase the balls right up to the boundary, singles were going to be run sharply and sometimes converted into twos. The team is now hailed as the worst Indian side in the field and between wickets in two decades.

Last fortnight, the selections for the Australasia Cup in Sharjah yet again gave Dungarpur an opportunity to play his favourite shot: a wild slash with the foot firmly in the mouth. Witness the sacking of Delhi's Gursharan Singh, the tourist on the New Zealand tour who, at 26, was said to be the bright young hope of Indian cricket. Or the return of Srikkanth: "If we can experiment with youngsters why can't we experiment with an experienced one-day player who has lost none of his striking power." Dungarpur's eyes opened to Srikkanth's striking power in a Wills Trophy match where he hit up 38 against an attack including Sachin Tendulkar. Back also is Ravi Shastri who "at 27, can hardly be called old". Is he now going to be the spearhead of the team of the '90s? Maybe his newly-married status has brought Shastri some respectability. With some of the experienced campaigners back, the team may do well in Sharjah but even that won't undo the long-term damage Dungarpur and company have done.

NOTHING demonstrates the idiosyncracies of Indian cricket management better than the plight of 19-year-old Vivek Razdan. He was plucked straight out of the MRF Pace Foundation in Madras for the Pakistan tour overriding the claims of Chetan Sharma. Later, fearing that Pakistan were preparing a nasty greentop for the last Test in Sialkot, the team requested the board to send another seamer. The request was turned down and a green Razdan made his debut on perhaps the subcontinent's fastest wicket. He claimed five wickets.

Illustration by AJIT NINAN



His reward? Throughout the New Zealand tour he was ignored. And now he has been dropped even from the Delhi team. How many selection committees in the world can boast of such a feat?

Sometime back, an anguished Sunil Gavaskar demanded that the Government step in to prevent Dungarpur and his bunch of selectors from destroying Indian cricket. Dungarpur was outraged: "If, and at all, there was a selection committee appointed by the Government, Sunil Gavaskar wouldn't have been picked up by Vijay Merchant totally raw, as he was, when he went to the West Indies in 1971." Finally Dungarpur had spoken a profound truth on the decline of Indian cricket from a time when greats like Merchant selected the national teams to the present when the teams are selected by group of five, three of whom, including the chairman, have played just one Test match amongst themselves.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Many a finance company in the country would wish it were in a position to release an advertisement like this...

A saga of achievements of 5 years* by Sakthi Finance

- Over 2,50,000 depositors serviced.
- About Rs.200 crores mobilised as fresh and renewal deposits.
- Rs.105 crores advanced benefitting about 5 lakh people.
- Value of assets financed over Rs.140 crores, promoting employment and economic activity.
- Dividends to the extent of 122% declared after Public Issue in late 1984. Rs.10/- share quoted at Rs.51/- (as on 5-4-'90).

If the past year has been a period of consolidation after four years of fast growth, the emphasis during the current year is going to be on manifold types of advances, viz.

- Commercial vehicles of all makes and types-new and not too old.
- Passenger Cars.
- Two wheelers, Consumer durables etc.
- Plant, Machinery, Generators etc.
- Construction equipments.
- Medical equipments, Office automation equipments.
- Selected Equity shares.

Sakthi Finance gears itself to face the challenges of the Nineties.

SAKTHI FINANCE LIMITED

SAKTHI FINANCE LTD

GROWTH SECURITY PROFITABILITY

Executive Chairman: S.N. PAI
Regd. Office: 475, Dr.Nanjappa Road, COIMBATORE - 641 018.
Telephone: 32240, 30500, 30047, 31904 & 35586.
Telex: 855-479 SAF-IN Grams: SAFIN

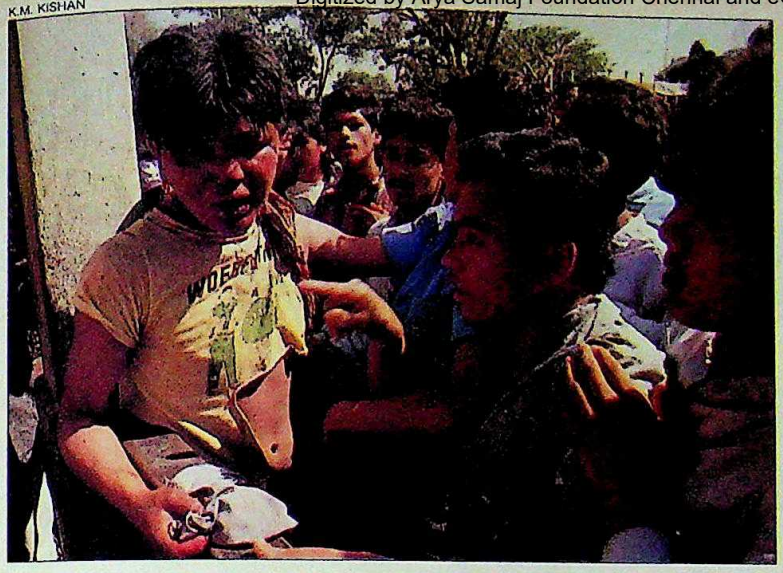
* For the period ended 31st March '90.

UIPC:SF:5:90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

K.M. KISHAN



Chaos prevails in Kathmandu and elsewhere as angry mobs have taken over the streets and have begun dispensing vigilante-type justice.

NEPAL

A Traumatic Transition

Violence erupts as interim government teeters on brink of collapse

THE celebrations are over. Now comes reality. Less than a week after Krishna Prasad Bhattarai was sworn in as head of a new interim government, the fragile nature of Nepal's return to multi-party democracy was already in stark evidence. At least 20 persons died in a fresh round of mob violence and police firing on April 23, compelling Bhattarai to offer his resignation to the king, who, however, asked him to continue in office.

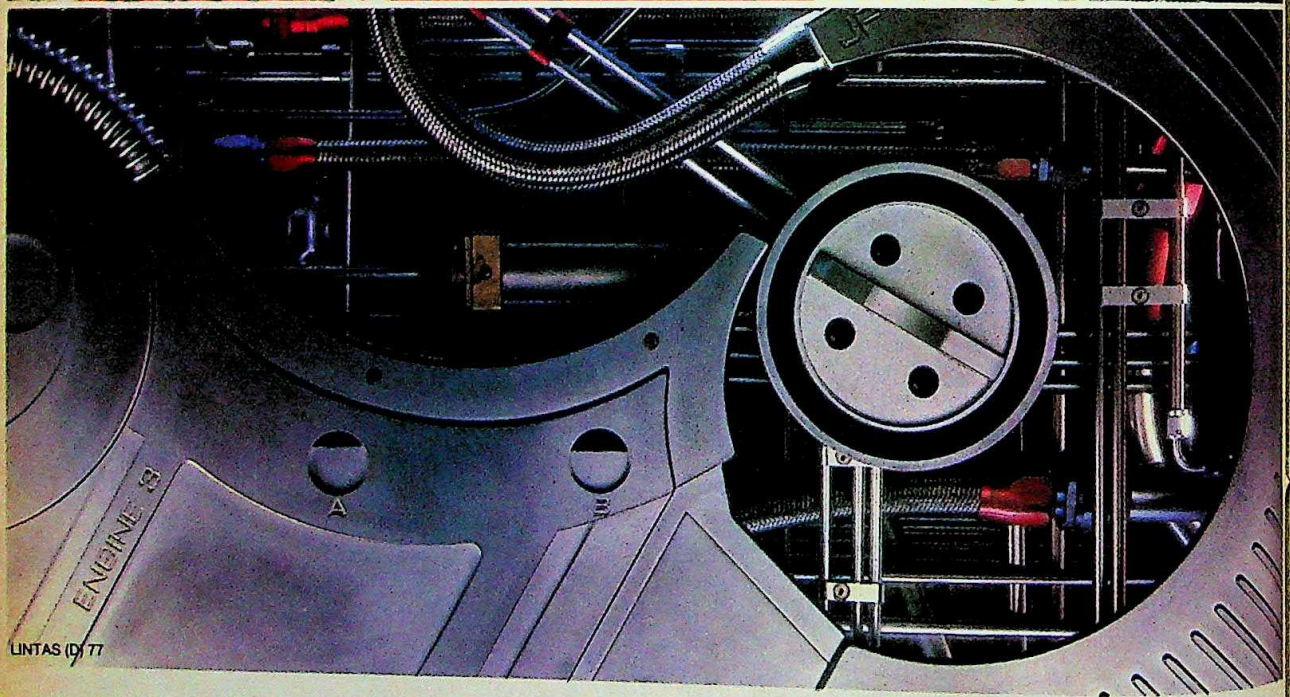
But the message was unmistakable. It was the *mandalis* (supporters of the Panchayat system who had propped up the Himalayan kingdom's autocratic monarchy) who embarrassed the new Government by provoking the April 23 violence. The *mandalis* had been roaming the streets, often attacking or bullying supporters of democracy. In response, the Nepali Congress and their partners in government, the United Left Front, had asked people to form local vigilance committees to safeguard life and property. The result was chaotic—and bloody. In Kathmandu and elsewhere, mobs roamed the streets dispensing vigilante-type justice. Their targets:

■ **Suspected supporters of monarchy assaulted by mobs in Kathmandu**

K.M. KISHAN

Main: Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



LINTAS (D) 77

CENTURIES OLD TRADITIONS.

STATE OF THE ART TECHNOLOGY.

THAI. WE REACH FOR THE SKY.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MIN BAJRACHAYA

the police for trying to suppress the democracy movement; and the *mandalis*.

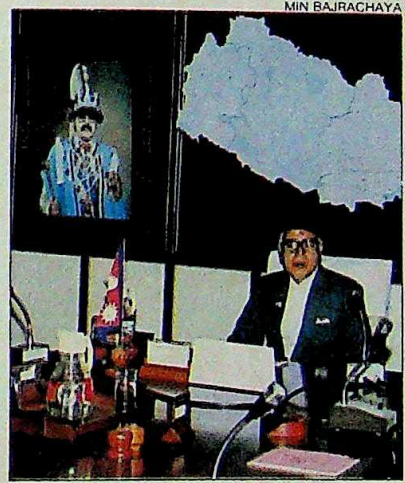
Matters came to a head on April 23, when mobs lynched some policemen. The police responded with firing, causing more deaths; the army was called out; and curfew clamped on Kathmandu. The next day, a number of policemen abandoned their posts.

There were other disquieting signs. Armed supporters of the old regime set fire to hutments at Shankhmul in Kathmandu the day before the interim government was sworn in. The next day, a cinema hall in Kathmandu was ransacked. A day later, shops at Baneshwar were looted and local residents began receiving letters and phone calls threatening that their houses would be looted. And while such vandalism shocked the people, the police, sullen and unresponsive, only made the problem worse. Some of them were reported to have even mocked people seeking their intervention. "You wanted a multi-party system and you have got it," they taunted.

To add fuel to the conflagration, workers went on strike in several offices and factories, demanding among other things, higher wages. Says Bhattarai: "It is a conspiracy by counter-revolutionaries to destabilise this government. They are reluctant to give up power so easily. We will fight them. I offered to quit but His Majesty dissuaded me. We have to remain alert."

That, in effect, seemed to be at the root of the crisis—the suspected involvement of opponents of democracy in the lawlessness that has gripped Nepal. Kathmandu at night is an eerie sight. The mobs, armed with rods, sticks, bows and arrows, stones and strips of tyres, prowl the streets extracting 'donations' from people and forcing shopkeepers to

MIN BAJRACHAYA



■ Cabinet being sworn in (top); Battarai in office: dangerous drift

keep their lights on. More dangerously, the vigilantes have even started taking action against 'criminals'. Last week, three pickpockets were badly beaten.

ALL this has placed a large question mark over the future of the new Government—and over Nepal's return to democracy. Bhattarai and his cabinet colleagues have reached their wit's end trying to contain the situation. Said a businessman in Kathmandu's Durbar Marg: "The Government must show that it can govern. It still shows no sign of being able to do so."

The Nepalese bureaucracy is openly contemptuous of the new ministers. "They do not even know how to read files" was one sarcastic comment. Others pointed out that the alacrity with which the ministers accepted official perks—included the ubiquitous black Mercedes—was nothing short of comic.

In Nepalese politics, reputations are destroyed quickly. And now it is the turn of Prime Minister Bhattarai to find himself in the eye of the storm. On the one hand he is hard pressed to defend his description of the king as a "gentleman", while on the other, his administrative abilities are suspect. "I admire Mr Bhattarai's magnanimity and I hope the people of Nepal will be as magnanimous with him," said former foreign minister Rishikesh Shaha, even as posters appeared at Dillibazaar in Kathmandu criticising Bhattarai.

Nepal is undoubtedly trapped in a dangerous drift. With a weak government in the saddle and the police hounded off the streets, the army could find it opportune to intervene. The restraining factor is that with the people firmly behind the interim Government, it will be difficult for the King to allow that to happen. Moreover, since neither the powers of the King nor of the interim Government have been defined as yet, considerable confusion has ensued.

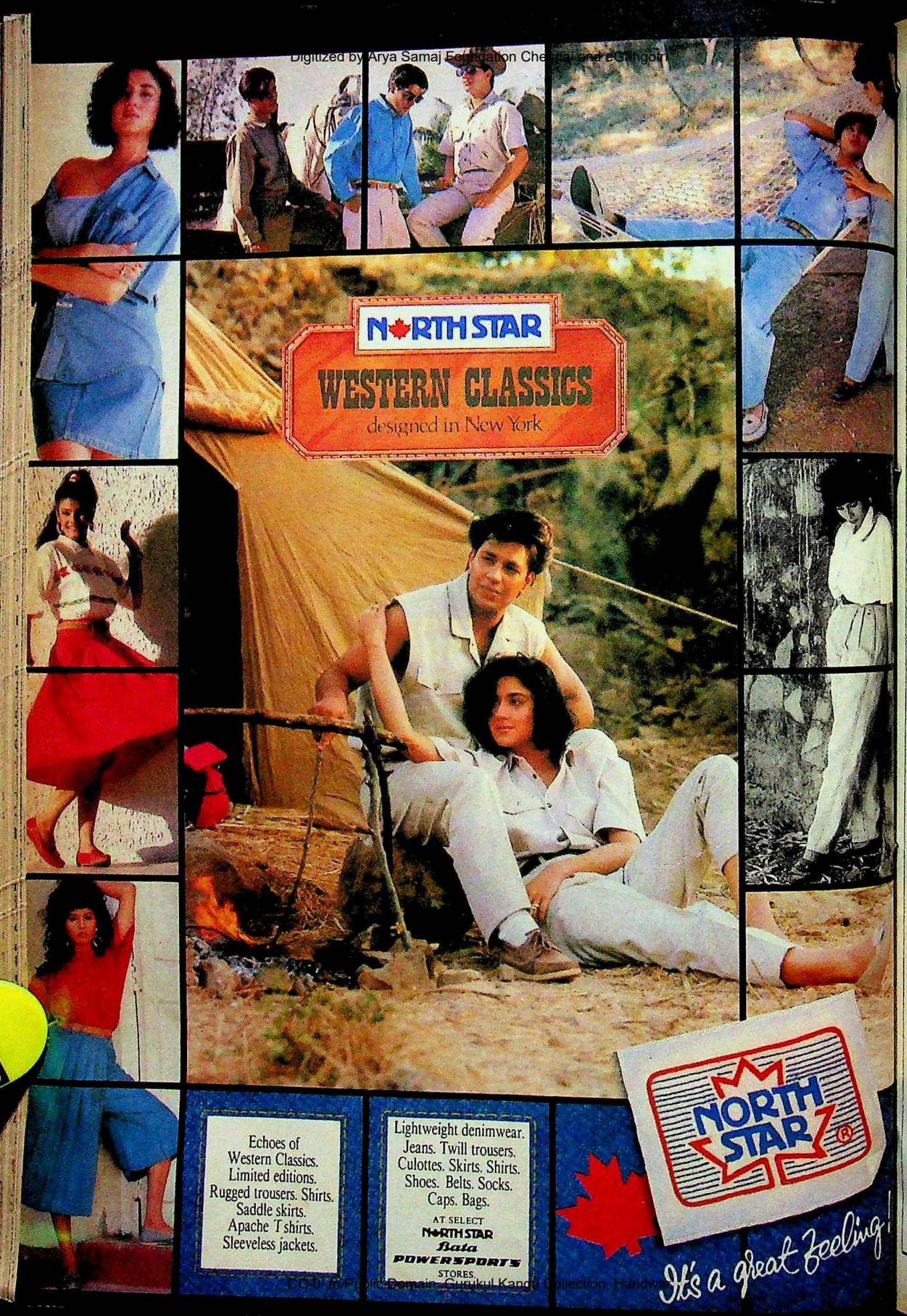
Even as the new Government grappled with the chaos, it became clear that several official agencies had stopped cooperating with it. Said a Nepali Congress activist: "The inspector general of police is a relative of the king and the additional inspector general a relative of the queen. Therefore we are not surprised at the development."

If the new Government gave the impression of having no control over the situation, it was partly because most of the new ministers were in jail till recently and have little administrative experience. And with the change of guard having been so sudden, they had little time to adjust to the dynamics of the system. As Vishnu Bahadur Manandhar, a communist leader, put it: "The situation remains very fluid."

To make matters worse, the exercise of forming an all-party government exposed the fissures within the parties. For instance, Radhakrishna Mainali, a prominent communist leader who had participated in negotiations with the king last fortnight, was not even accommodated in the ministry as his party nominated the much younger Jhal Nath Khanal. Again, contrary to expectations, Girija Prasad Koirala, who had been acknowledged by some quarters as the future prime minister, declined a ministerial berth. "There are no differences. After all there must be somebody to look after the party and hence my decision to stay away from the ministry," he said. But talk of a serious rift within the two elements of the interim government—ideologically at

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



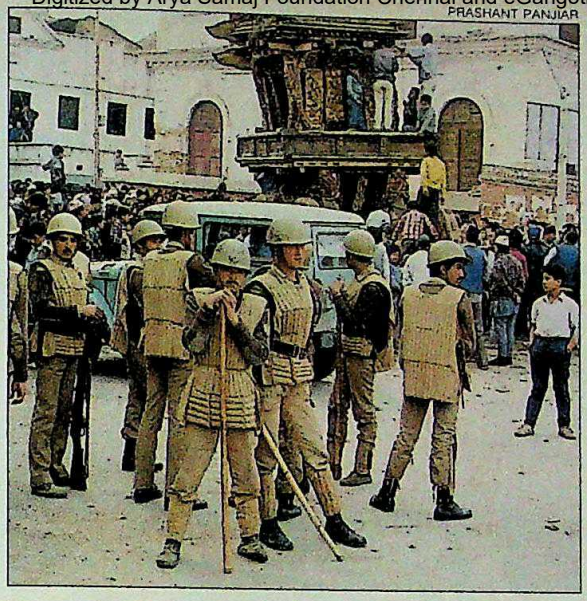
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

odds with each other—is now commonplace.

The United Left Front (which comprises seven different factions) had wanted a 14-member cabinet to be sworn in with seven ministers from the Left Front and seven from the Nepali Congress. But the compulsion of accommodating two nominees of the king and the insistence of Ganesh Man Singh that two independents also be included, finally led to the creation of an 11-member cabinet, with four members from the Nepali Congress, and three from the Left Front. The Left Front partners were also unhappy over all the important portfolios being retained by nominees of the Nepali Congress. "There are differences and areas of discord," acknowledged ULF leader Sahana Pradhan, "but for the moment we would prefer to forget our differences and unitedly face the onslaught of the reactionaries." Already attempts have begun to forge the seven Left Front partners into one party and there are indications that the coming election could see seat adjustments between the two coalition partners.

PRASHANT PANJIAR



■ Policeman standing on guard outside the palace: sullen mood

On the other hand the votaries of the Panchayat system have also not been idle. Hectic parleys have taken place and political parties to be led by former prime ministers Surya Bahadur Thapa and Dr Tulsi Giri are being planned. Said another former prime minister, Lokendra Bahadur Chand: "Many former members of the Panchayat are willing to be united."

The biggest challenge before the new Government is not merely to combat supporters of the monarchy but to convince people that it can ensure stability. The worsening economic situation is another major issue and much will depend on how the Government of India responds to the request of Nepal's prime minister calling for restoration of status quo ante regarding trade and transit between the two countries. A positive gesture by India will certainly help the interim government consolidate its position. If India acts tough, the level of scepticism that is rising daily could soon harden into disillusionment. As Manandhar remarks: "A revolution that cannot defend itself is no revolution."

—UTTAM SENGUPTA in Kathmandu

THE MONARCHY

King's Gambit

WHILE few in Nepal are certain about the status and strength of the interim government, there is little doubt that the king continues to retain considerable powers. This has led to a fierce debate within the Nepali Congress and the United Left Front about the wisdom of running the Government without ensuring that the king's powers be curbed.

While the supreme leader of the Nepali Congress, Ganesh Man Singh, insists the king will remain a constitutional monarch, others do not rule out the possibility of King Birendra dismissing the interim government.

After all, the king installed as many as three prime ministers in April, lifted the ban on political parties and dissolved the Rashtriya Panchayat, without any reference to the Constitution, the Cabinet or even the Panchayat. Says Rishikesh Shaha, a former foreign minister: "Even the divine emperor of Japan was made to realise that sovereignty ultimately rests with the people and without such an admission by the king, the suspense will remain." Adds Sahana Pradhan of the Left Front: "I do not rule out the possibility of the king dismissing the interim government. We will have to remain vigilant."

■ King Birendra and the queen: holding the high cards

RAVINDRA MARKEY

The manner in which two nominees of the king were included in the Bhattarai Ministry also added to this impression. The king disclosed the names of his nominees at the last moment and many feel that they will act as his spies in the new Government. Says Girija Prasad Koirala: "I don't think the king will try to upset the interim government. But we will have to remain alert."

While there is little doubt that the king has lost face among the people, his strategy seems to be to bide for time. And though anti-monarchy rallies and a witchhunt against supporters of the old system continue in Kathmandu, he has a number of powerful sympathisers.

The new war-cry in Nepal is, "The revolution is not yet complete." But the king is still in a position to plan a counter-revolution of his own.

—UTTAM SENGUPTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CINEMA

Return To Romance

Young love fever rages, amidst increasing violence in cinema

THE plight of young lovers, enveloped in a storm of innocence, has always had the power to convert even the crustiest of curmudgeons into sentimental fools.

And that's precisely what a new, romantic trail-blazing trend in Hindi cinema has begun to do. In this new genre of films, the young lovers remain young. And innocent. And confused. And oh-so-vulnerable. And they're taking the audiences by storm. Puppy love is beginning to straddle the Hindi screen in what is surely one of the biggest cinematic successes in the last decade. The big screen is lovestruck. But with a difference.

There was always love. Silly, mushy unbelievable, awkward even. Raj Kapoor and Nargis, Dilip Kumar and Waheeda Waheeda and Guru Dutt, Shashi Kapoor and Nanda, Rajesh Khanna and

Romance has returned like the first monsoon shower after a scorching summer.

Juhi Chawla and Aamir Khan in *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*: jackpot on the strains of tragic young love

Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Sharmila, Dharmendra and Hema Malini. But then came the era of screen violence, like hot summer winds. Love couldn't quite stay the ground. It wilted. There came a drought of love.

It lasted well over a decade.

Then came *Maine Pyar Kiya* last November, like the first monsoon showers after a scorching summer. Love blossomed, grasshopper green, on this celluloid wasteland, empty of feelings. To be sure, there were, here and there, some oases of romance. Like the record-breaking *Bobby*. And *Ek Duje Ke Liye*. But these were just hiccups in the unending saga of revenge and bloodlust characterising mainstream cinema. Romance had been reduced to a filler.

Maine Pyar Kiya (see box) has turned the tables. Back on its pedestal, love now threatens to hog the entire screen. Poised as it is to make a profit of over Rs 20 crore—according to *Trade Guide*'s Executive Editor, Tarun Adarsh—it is already being called the biggest block-buster in the history of Indian cinema. Tarachand Barjatya of Rajshri Productions, whose film it is, shies away from exact figures for obvious reasons. But *Maine Pyar Kiya*, which has already run to packed houses for 17 weeks—now with 250 prints—poses a challenge to *Sholay*, the last watershed of success which ran for three years in Bombay. Barjatya, who also distributed *Sholay*, shares this view.

The film's mind-boggling, unexpected success, has opened a treasure chest of love stories: over 60 romantic Hindi films are in various stages of production. The list keeps getting longer. "This is the biggest hit since *Alam Ara*; it has smashed everything else," says Manmohan Desai, all set to make two love stories.

Romeo and Juliet were barely in their teens. So are the new star-crossed lovebirds of Indian filmdom. "We are going to see countless variations of *West Side Story*, angry youth in the romantic mould," says Randhir Kapoor, well on the love trail with his father's legacy, *Henna*.

FRESH faces are a must. Director Raj Kumar Kohli has placed large advertisements for "fresh, young faces" in national dailies. Only a new pair can make the audience believe that their love is for real. Says Subhash Ghai: "I wanted a pure, new face, an innocent look, and rawness for *Saudagar* because my lovers have no commitment in life. They just have to fall in love."

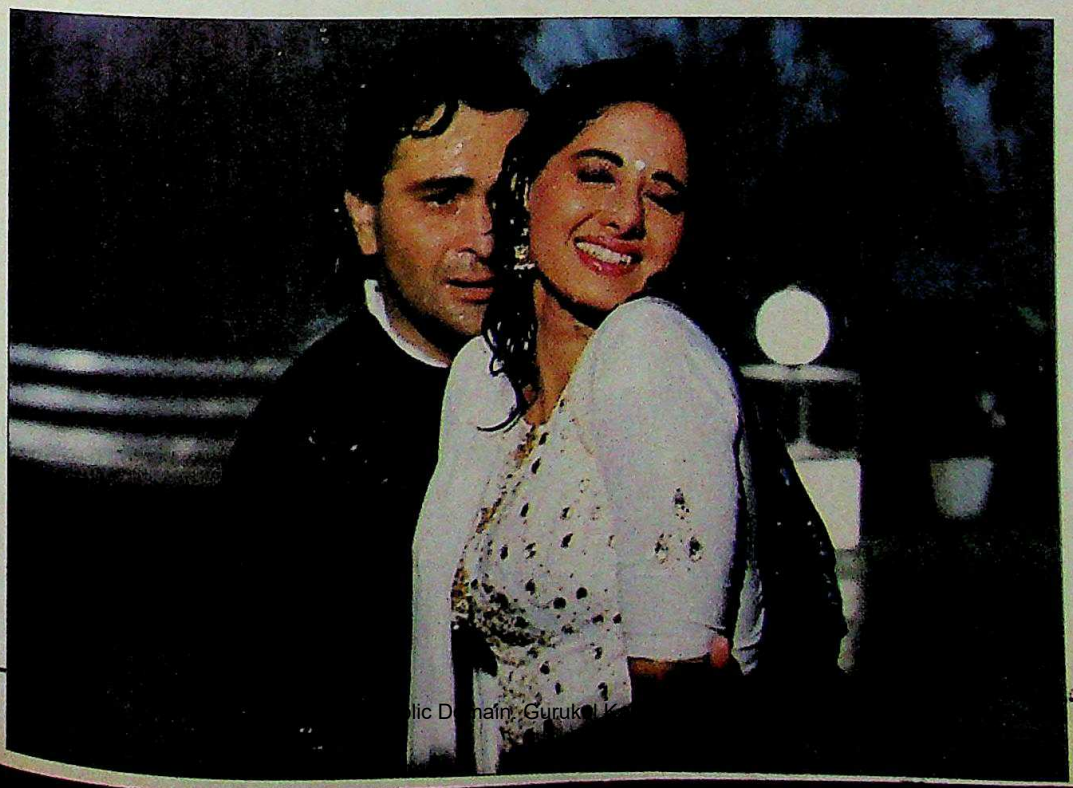
The symptoms of this apparently incurable new love disease were already visible after the success of Mansoor Khan's *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*, a runaway golden jubilee hit with two newcomers in 1988—a time when multi-star action-packed block-busters were falling like ninepins. And last year Yash Chopra's *Chandni*, a slow starter, ran for 25 weeks hitting the jackpot, and had the nation humming to its melodious music.

But the malady *d'amour* became an epidemic with *Maine Pyar Kiya* a few months ago. Salman Khan and Bhagyashree Patwardhan became the country's sweethearts. Everyone is now playing their songs. Even cynics who initially cribbed about this mushy love story are now eating their words. "How can I go against the nation?" asks director Vinod Chopra. "This film is like candy. Everybody loves it. How can you criticise it?"

And the industry is trying to follow in its epiphanous wake. Vinod Chopra himself is making a simple love story—lots of candy floss and a 180 degree turn away from his latest film, *Parinda*, a chillingly violent portrait of the underworld. Six directors, including the loquacious Mahesh Bhatt, are making love stories for Super Cassettes. Even the G.P. Sippy banner, with which *Sholay* sent the herd towards a decade and a half of the action-film, is romancing the story. Sibte Hasan Rizvi, the gunsmoke of *Joshilay* still hanging in the air, has just completed a rural love tale, *Awaaz De Kahan Hai*, with two newcomers. Aamir Khan, the teeny-bopper heart-throb who gave way to Salman Khan, is presently acting in half a dozen romantic films: both his father Tahir Hussain and uncle Nasir Hussain have cast him as a young campus lover. Not to be left behind, the current tycoon of the film world, Subhash Ghai, has introduced a new pair of teenage lovers, Monisha Koirala and Vivek Mushran, in his film,

Anger is passe, revenge not-so-sweet, and music is definitely the food of love.

Rishi Kapoor and Sridevi in *Chandni*: tale of love lost and found is a surprise mega-hit



lic Domain. Gurukul

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Saudagar, to bring love into the steely hearts of the film's two antagonists: Dilip Kumar and Raaj Kumar. Even Anil Kapoor has gone all swoony and wants to trade in his snarl for stars in the eyes: "I just feel like being romantic." Laid up in bed with a broken foot, he's gearing up for romance by watching *Gone With The Wind* and lots of romantic musicals. He is also being practical. "What people like best in my new films like *Tezaab* and *Parinda* are the romantic scenes," says he.

But why, suddenly, is there love in the time of violence? A major reason for Bombay going a bit moony could be the overdose of violence in films. Anger has become passe and revenge not-so-sweet. Moreover, the avatar of anger, Amitabh Bachchan, has played out his repertoire. Script-writer Salim Khan created this angry man, along with Javed Akhtar. Now he, too, is bored with him. "*Zanjeer* was a revolt against the submissive hero, the man thrown out in the rain, the man who gets the shoes thrown on him. This film started the 'give-it-back-to-them era'. But now the cycle has come full circle." After Bachchan, the deluge—of romance.

But perhaps a key reason for the tender breezes wafting through Bombay is music. Not only is it proving to be the food of love, but of the box-office as well. "Music is the turning tide," says director Yash Chopra. "The era of the romantic musical has made a comeback." All the recent super hits: *Tezaab*, *Tridev*, *Ram Lakhan*, *Chandni* and *Maine Pyar Kiya* are strong on music. Both *Chandni* and *Maine Pyar Kiya* have nine songs—and three of them in the latter go on for as long as nine minutes each. Like the pied piper, their cassettes—released long before the film—lead the masses to the cinema hall.

People used to go out to smoke during the songs. These days they walk in to the sound of music. Complains pin-up villain Amrish Puri: "They used to whistle during the fight sequences. Now they do so during the songs." So profound has the change been that Puri has started singing: he's just done a duet with Sridevi.

IN films like *Maine Pyar Kiya*, *Aashiqui*, *Jo Jeete Woh Sikander*, the young hero is singularly lacking in ambition. He is usually jobless, a drifter in fact. Love is his only preoccupation, his only *raison d'etre*. And in this there is a similarity to Raj Kapoor's vagabond. But the Raj Kapoor *Awaara* character, though dramaturgically compelling, was not real. He was not the boy next door. You could sympathise with him, but not really identify with him.

Today's young hero is recognisable. He is part of the growing tribe of the nation's uneducated or semi-educated unemployed. He likes the good life, good clothes, neat hair-style, romance, but lacks singularly in overweening ambition. In Raj Kapoor's time, or in that of Rajendra Kumar, a B.A. was the passport to a good job. This is no longer so in real life. And not even on the screen. Rajendra Kumar, in the films of the '60s, would come rushing home to tell mama that he had got a first, and tears of happiness would pour down their cheeks. Explains Salim Khan: "In my generation, we first had to get a job, then we could talk about love. Now, it's the other way round." Talking about his own family—and this includes son Salman of the *Maine Pyar Kiya* fame—he says: "Salman represents that boy in the film who wants love and has no set ambitions. Look at my sons, they are all drifting. But they all had girl-friends since they were 16 or 17."

But love now also means having to work hard: today's young lovers have to earn their love. Literally. In *Maine Pyar Kiya*, the young hero is rich but ambitionless. He does back-breaking work in a stone quarry to get back his love. In *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*, Aamir Khan collects firewood and searches for water to survive in their rocky hiding place. In *Aashiqui*, the hero strives to become something to match his destitute-turned-high flying model love. The films highlight the transforming power of love. In *Joh Jeete Woh Sikander*, Aamir is the worthless hero, but the girl who loves him believes in him.

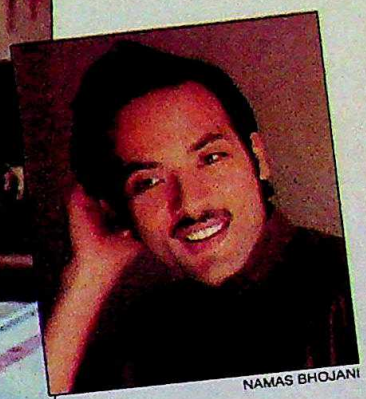
The quality of love has also changed. A certain tenderness has come back to it. The hero stoops to conquer. "*The Taming of the Shrew* aspect of love is going," says Salim Khan. "Heroes in the past wanted to mould the girl: 'One day you'll make a nice wife' kind of thing. Today, he's the one who is changing." There are practical reasons for the puppy love phase too. Film-makers, tired of playing hostage to the star system, turned to undemanding young

Today's young hero, like the audiences he attracts, is a drifter yearning for love

Rishi Kapoor and Zeba Bakhtiar in *Henna*: a tale of love across the Indo-Pakistan border

Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



NAMAS BHOJANI

Bhagyashree and Salman Khan in *Maine Pyar Kiya*; Director Sooraj Barjatya: love's labour not lost

SOORAJ BARJATYA

Love at First Blush

IT was a miracle on Veer Savarkar street. Rajshri Productions, 44 films old, was closing down. Their Bombay office was about to be sold to pay debts. But Tarachand Barjatya, decided on one last fling. He asked grandson Sooraj to make a film. He did. And now after *Maine Pyar Kiya* the next generations of the Barjatyas needn't worry.

The film has raced past everything else in sight. *Trade Guide* lists it as one of the eight greatest hits ever. Others even put it on top of that list. "The film has gone beyond our wildest dreams," says the senior Barjatya.

It's also a happening. In small towns people set free pigeons in the cinema halls: in the film a white pigeon hitches a ride on a red convertible and delivers a billet-doux. In Gorakhpur, a group of young men walked into a cinema hall with a huge tray covered with a white sheet. The security men panicked. But it was only a huge cake which they served in the balcony when the heroine celebrated her birthday.

The nation, it seems, has fallen in love with the movie.

Why?

Music is one of the key ingredients of its success. The songs have melody; the feelings come through—a throwback to the '60s. Moreover Sooraj uses the songs to take his story further. It is also that touch of innocence. Rajendra Kumar, the romantic hero of the '60s, attributes the phenomenon to the film's "purity": "The film is vegetarian right down to the food served in the *thalis*."

The story is straight out of Mills and Boon, indigenised. The stuff that dreams are made off. The film, though lavishly mounted, is almost like a home movie. Cosy, cute and bumblingly awkward, it wears its soppy heart on its sleeve. The dialogues are unstilted. It's everyday talk.

Then, there are the props straight out of the land of sentimentality: placards which say: "I love you so much, it hurts." A black cap with "Friend" written on it—it goes back and forth between the young lovers. The badge-studded black leather jacket like Tom Cruise wore in *Top Gun*.

The film had everything going against it. The director is new. So are the stars. They are quite ordinary, in fact. But it is this very boy-and-girl-next-door quality about the new pair—Bhaghyashree Patwardhan, 20, and Salman Khan, 24, (a throwback to Rajesh Khanna)—which has won the hearts of the masses and the cynics.

And the director and the lead pair have put themselves into the brew, guilelessly: what we see on the screen is really them.

Take Bhaghyshree, who really looks as if she is in love. She was. Halfway through the making of the film, she got married. While love poured out of her expressive eyes on screen, her mind was elsewhere. She was living her real love on screen. Unlike most puppy love stories the film is not about love at first sight: the couple first become friends. "I had been through this. My husband and I were friends in school," she says.

Salman, too, plays himself. "That was me on screen," he says. Which is why youngsters identify themselves with the film. And for a change, the film has a young mother who is more like a friend. 'I'm close to my mother. I say 'sexy' while talking to her as I do in the film."

Other little Salman touches. When angry he goes off to play the saxophone. Or after a tiff, he calls his girl-friend on the phone and waits for her to say something.

But above all, it is the transparence of the director. The film has a four track music system. And it uses music to create its little epiphanies. For instance, when it finally dawns on the young couple that they are in love, Barjatya explains: "The music pours down from all sides, like a chorus of approval."

It is the confusion of first-love-feelings then that has been re-created on screen. And a lot of the credit for this goes to Bhaghyashree's screen presence. It is that "quality of giving" which she has, explains Shekhar Kapur. And as Shashi Kapoor puts it: "She is shy, but not camera shy."

There is another element at work here. The film is in modern dress all right: Rambo and Michael Jackson posters, the *Top Gun* jacket. But it is at heart conservative. "The more cynical the age, the more you hunger for old values," says screen writer Sachin Bhowmick. The boy doesn't smoke in front of his parents.

What seems to have really got to people is the film's advocacy of a particularly Indian virtue moth-balled for a long time: *sharam* (coyness). The key scene: the couple is on the terrace. Salman hands her one dress after another to wear, including a wedding gown. The last one, however, is, well, nothing. At this point the camera goes behind the girl as she draws open the cloth in front. The camera sees nothing, except her covered back and Salman in a state of rapture. But he quickly gathers himself and drapes the cloth around her. Modesty restored.

In the end, the family is sacrosanct. And the girl, covered from head to toe, is prone to sacrifice. "Sacrifice conveys love more than passion does," says Sooraj.

—MADHU JAIN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

newcomers. The film industry had begun to collapse under the weight of the star sytem. The big stars charged the earth—between Rs 15 lakh and Rs 50 lakh. They were difficult, moody. Set-hoppers, they had become baggy-eyed and jaded caricatures of their former selves. Newcomers came cheap—charging from as little as Rs 25,000 to Rs 1 lakh. And were willing to give enough time. "The success of films with nobodies has really shaken the stars," says Tarun Adarsh.

This is not to say that just because romance is in again, it is a new phenomenon. The parameters are different. In the earlier, pre-blood-and-gore cinema, it was always the case of the rich girl marrying the poor boy, with love triumphing despite the wise ways of the world. And alongside, there has been the Romeo-and-Juliet school of romance with indigenous inspirations like Heer Ranjha and Laila Majnu where love triumphs through death. *Bobby* started it all. Then came *Ek Duje Ke Liye*, *Betaab* and *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*. All these had lovers separated—till death brought them together.

In old times, there was parental opposition, tradition, innate shyness or even the Devdas lover who took 12 reels to talk to the girl. But today when tradition and custom are less formidable obstacles for the lovers' progress, film makers have no choice but to create artificial barriers. Competition today lies in inventing different kinds of variations in the barriers.

LOVE now has to transcend different kinds of boundaries. Border crossings, literally. Thus, *Henna* is about a Pakistani girl falling in love with an Indian boy, across the border. Raj Kapoor's theme, in fact, was that love has no borders.

Then there is a more ephemeral border crossing: the other side of death. Reincarnation seems to be a current favourite for film makers in search of unusual twists to tales of love. In the case of *Prem*—from the Boney Kapoor stable to launch brother Sanjay Kapoor—reincarnation allows him to swathe a large chunk of time. Says Boney Kapoor: "We can show period costumes and sets from two centuries, from the British period right up to the present." The disco present and the video promo present that is. Yash Chopra says his new film, *Lamhe*, is not about reincarnation but about a man coming across his lover who had died. A heavenly romance of sorts.

Campus romances are also in. Ma soor Khan has set his love story in Deh Dun (five main characters and eight p ripheral, mostly brand-new models) in school modelled after Doon, but call Rajput College. Next door is Model C lege, for the locals and it is a variati of love across the class and money divid

The update from the past in the stories: the arenas of competition evolv from qawwalis and dances in the '60s skating and cycling today. Love tod comes packaged with sports, the vitam and glucose grown up babies with ener to spare. So you have Salman Khi learning to roller skate (wheel round skate boards too) in pursuit of love. We a going to see a lot of boxing, water spor skating: sports is the new spice of lo There's variety in the arena of conflic

Another interesting trend is the ri boy falling in love with a helpless poor g the other way round from the margin comi-tragic Raj Kapoor persona of t early films. Today, the middle class b hero—whether it is in *Maine Pyar Kiya* in forthcoming films like Mahesh Bhat *Aashiqui* or Deepak Shivdasani's *Bagg* finds love beneath his respective stati In Bhatt's film, he falls for a girl in a orphanage (a bit of Dickens revisited w

Unlike earlier, the '90s lover stoops to conquer his girl, not try to mould he

Shikha Swaroop, Ashwin Wadhawan in *Awaaz De Kahan Hai*: rural variation of the Romeo-Juliet theme

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ADULT LOVE

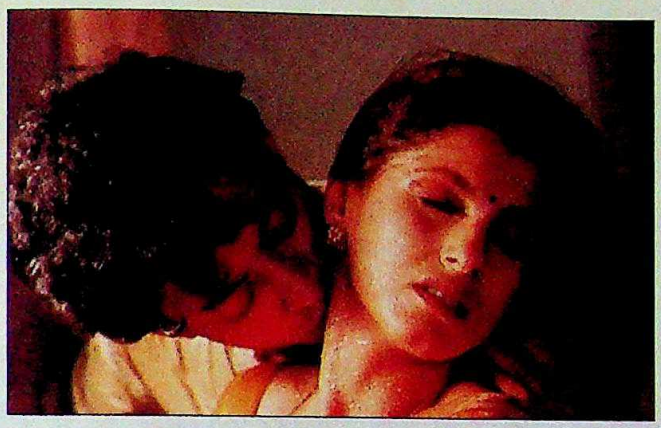
Beloved Infidels

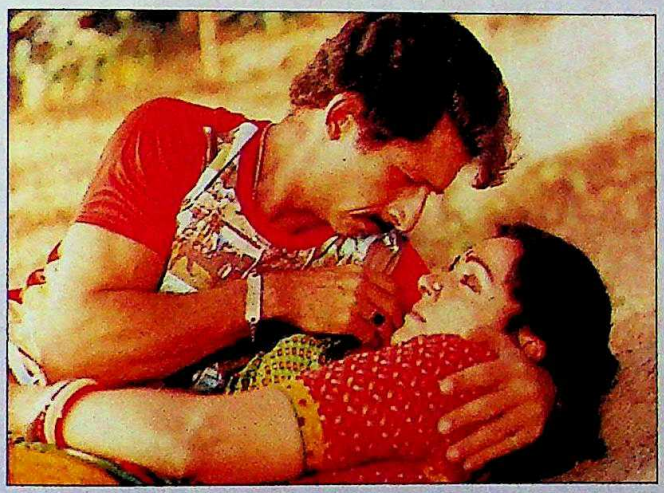
WHILE puppy love spreads like a prairie fire through popular cinema, the other cinema is turning its lens on adult love. What would happen if Laila and Majnu were to live, get married and even get bored. And worse: fall in love again, with other people. Romance in popular cinema usually takes the story up to the point when the two lovers either die or "live happily ever after". Adult love turns the page.

It zooms in on the relationship between man and woman after the nuptials are over. And more recently it has begun to focus on infidelity. Male infidelity in Indian cinema has generally been taken for granted. Cinema never even bothered to ask the woman. Today, it is—boldly. Film makers are examining a woman's sexuality, her physical and emotional needs.

The boldest is Aruna Raje's *Rihaee* which raised many eyebrows and also did respectably well at the box office this winter. The film—in which a married village woman bears another man's child—is pathbreaking as it explores a woman's right over her body, her right to have sexual desires. Equally bold is the stark dialogue. For instance, an old woman tells the panchayat, which is debating the woman's right to have the child: "Do you think our nights aren't long. They are longer. It's so against nature this existence of ours? We also need warmth, comfort. You think Taku's the only one who's committed adultery?" Says Raje: "My film treats sex as a biological need, a part of the life of women."

Anubhav, *Aavishkar*, *Ek Baar Phir* and some of the old classics have looked at marriage earlier. But they did not step outside it. And though Aparna Sen's *Paroma* and Kalpana Lajmi's *Ek Pal* also explored a married woman's need for intensity and romance which took her outside marriage, they did not make such undiluted statements as *Rihaee* does. Interestingly, in *Ek Pal*, *Rihaee*, and now Basu Bhattacharya's latest—yet to be released—offering, *Panchvati*, the woman decides to keep the child conceived out of wedlock.





Dimple Kapadia in Govind Nihalani's *Dhristi*; Naseeruddin Shah and Hema Malini in Aruna Raje's *Rihaee*: bold themes

Bhattacharya examines a woman's need for self-expression, with sensitivity. The relationship between the lovers is more than just physical; it is the meeting of kindred souls. A painter, a slightly dreamy Deepti Naval, falls in love with her husband's brother (Suresh Oberoi), a poet. Both are married to their opposites.

In some very telling scenes, Bhattacharya dissects two sterile marriages and contrasts them quite poetically. "A woman has become a sleeping pill for a man. He never bothers to see whether she is satisfied," says Bhattacharya, explaining the flight of love and sensuality from marriage depicted in *Panchvati*. "Couples are put together in the prison of the bedroom. This togetherness has become a ritual. They sleep together to go to sleep. It is more important to be together when awake." Deepti and Suresh are the early birds who catch dawn each morning while their respective spouses sleep on.

There are other film makers on the trail of beloved infidels. Ketan Mehta is indigenising *Madame Bovary* and Kumar Shahani is transporting *Anna Karenina* to India. And in *Sach*, Vinod Pande's film released last fortnight, the woman leaves an adulterous husband and eventually has an affair with a married man. If *Sach* jars it is because Pande takes his camera into the bedroom and bathtub a little too voyeuristically. The idea, obviously, is to shock. "I begin with a heightened act of sexuality. The woman is an equal participant. She opens his buttons," says Pande.

Govind Nihalani has also shifted his masterful camera from social or political themes on to love and marriage in *Dhristi*, now almost complete. "This is one from the heart," says Nihalani. The film has scenes from a marriage—close-up. There's infidelity: Dimple Kapadia has a brief, intense affair. But basically Nihalani is examining emotions in an unusual format: "no plot, all peaks". Short scenes are interconnected by montages and the uplifting voice of Kishori Amonkar.

The director believes we need to "redefine the relationship between man and woman, to show the passage of woman to independence as an individual." Dimple—who Nihalani describes as an actress who is a "finely tuned instrument"—has certainly travelled a long way from *Bobby* to *Dhristi*. "Women are going out to snatch their happiness," says she.

Love and the married woman certainly seem to be seducing many a film maker.

—MADHU JAIN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SUPER plus
FILM FOR COLOR PRINTS
AVAILABLE IN INDIA

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

a nasty foreign missionary head of the orphanage). Shivdasani's hero (Salman Khan getting to be a young master of the love game) is obsessed by a girl he sees in a brothel.

Some film makers are also going back to the future: the romantic musicals of the '60s are reeling through their minds. Shekhar Kapur's new film, tentatively titled *Jaan* (with Dharmendra's second son, Bobby, and Raj Kapoor's granddaughter, Karishma) will echo back to the days when you tripped lightly and wore your heart in a song. "These films gave you two and a half hours of joyous, bountiful, happy love," he says. Kapur misses these films because they made "you cry a little, sing along with the songs and come out of the hall trying to be like the hero...If Dev Anand changed his hair style, the whole of India changed it".

Kapur wants to bring back "the style, not the story". Similarly, the other Kapoors, Boney and Anil, want to borrow the chutzpah of the carefree '60s. Says Anil: "We want to bring back the magic of Kishore Kumar and Madhubala in *Chalti Ka Naam Gaadi*."

But there's no going back. Love in the

ROMANTIC FILMS

Love down the Ages

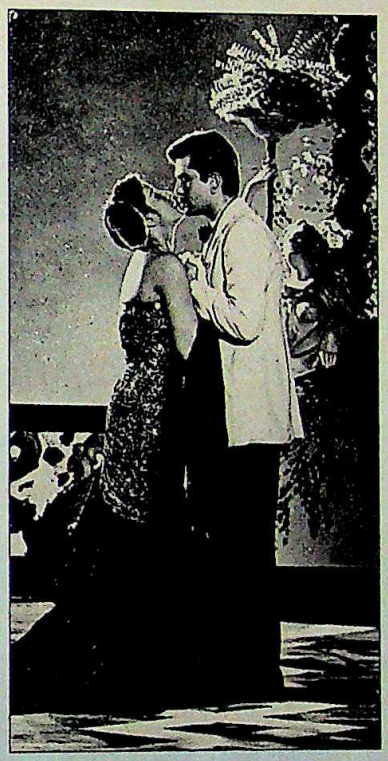
ROMANCE played hide and seek down the decades in Indian cinema. During the silent films and later the pre-Independence era, it was upfront and physical. Heroines like Nadia were spunky, aggressive even in films like *Hunterwali*. The kiss was nothing out of the ordinary.

But somewhere in the '40s, love was sublimated out of the realm of the physical. Romance became a long distance affair: 30 feet separated the lovers. They would hardly look at one another. And usually, the hero would lose the girl.

Devdas, the quintessential tragic lover in Indian cinema (K.L. Saigal in 1935; Dilip Kumar in 1955) was the prototype for several decades. Shying away from his Paro, he drowned his sorrow in drink while she was made to marry an old man. Unrequitted love remained a powerful force, a message of pain. Consummation, if any, had to be in the heavens. Meena Kumari, who best personified subliminal longings and suppressed sensuality, was a female Devdas.

Sacrifice was the highest emotion. A silent sufferer, the hero steered clear of his beloved for the sake of a friend or for tradition. Rajendra Kumar in *Sangam* (1964) finds his way out of this triangle by killing himself. The courtship, it seemed, was with death. Those were days when love and marriage did not go together. Because it was usually love across class or caste divides. Love was used as social protest.

Sacrifice was sidelined when Raj Kapoor stormed in with *Barsaat* (1949). The tragic lover became a wimp, passe. "Raj Kapoor revolutionised romance in *Barsaat* by bringing in passion and the physical," says film maker Manmohan Desai.



Nargis, Raj Kapoor in *Awara*

The blue-eyed actor's passion could even lead him to slap the girl he loved. Nargis gets a couple of slaps in *Awara* (1951). "It was all about possession. This poverty-bitten roadside character could say 'this is my woman because I love her'," says director Subhash Ghai.

Meanwhile, Nargis sent the suppressed woman into temporary hiding. She didn't hide her love. Coyness gave way to passion and spritely aggression. A certain playfulness which Madhubala carried on.

The '60s saw the reticent lover, the good man and social awareness. And it came through in the Muslim socials and in Bimal Roy films. Rajendra Kumar, his eyes seldom dry, represented that age. Noble women were in vogue too: Nutan, Waheeda Rehman.

But along came yet another stormy Kapoor to upset the apple-cart. Shammi Kapoor, *Junglee* (1961): the yahoo lover broke all barriers. A swagger came along with love. "Shammi's Paro will be teased and molested on the way to her father's house," says Desai. The doe-eyed Asha Parekhs, Sadhanas, Nandas, Sharmilas—coyness and sensuality kept up with him. The only obstacles to the two lovers coming together were villains and misunderstandings.

If Shammi Kapoor was the dancing hero who brought a current of sexuality—as opposed to sensuality—into films, Dev Anand was the stylish, singing lover. The gentleman lover, westernised and city slick. But the lover who straddled an era was Rajesh Khanna. The first boy-next-door became the national charmer—graduating to a national obsession after *Aradhana* in 1970. He would blink his eyes and bend his head in a particular way and launch a thousand sighs.

But then came the tall, angry hero with the voice which came from the lower depths. And the concept of romance changed. The violent era began in the late '70s : drugs, dons, smugglers, urban violence. Just romance was not enough for Amitabh Bachchan. He usurped the screen: from mid-'70s on, the heroine was reduced to a dancing partner, a glamorous prop. She, in turn, usurped the role of the vamp. But alongside the Zeenat Amans, Parveen Babis and latter-day clones was Hema—the desi heroine, the girl you could take home to mother. Rekha was the one sensual woman. Sridevi in the more liberal '80s combined innocence with insouciance.

The '90s are a toss-up. Somewhere between the hulks and chocolate box heroes: Aamir Khan, Salman Khan, Bobby Deol. As for the girls, somewhere between innocence and sensuality: Madhuri Dixit, Juhi Chawla and the round-the-horizon heroines like Monisha Koirala, Zeba Bakhtiar, Karishma and Tabu.

—MADHU JAIN

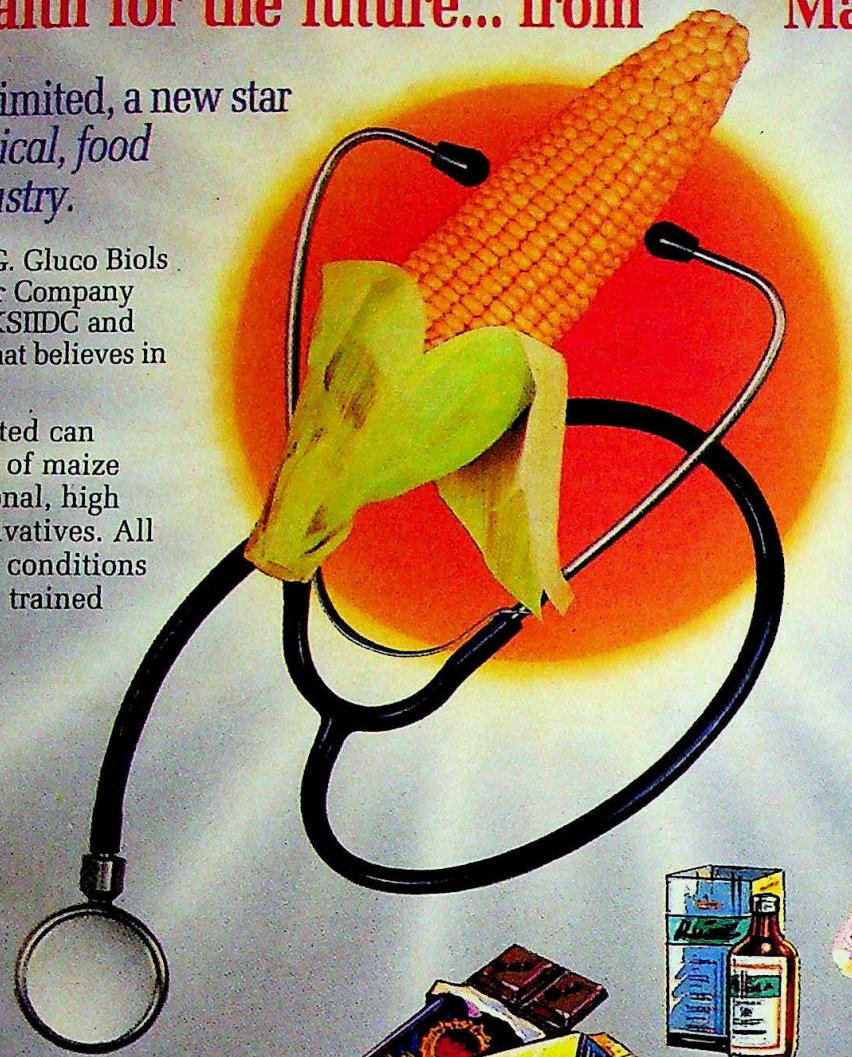
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Shaping health for the future... from Maize!

K.G. Gluco Biols Limited, a new star in the *pharmaceutical, food and beverage industry.*

A new star is born. K.G. Gluco Biols Limited. The Joint Sector Company backed by two giants – KSIIDC and GLAXO. The Company that believes in providing health for all.

K.G. Gluco Biols Limited can process upto 150 tonnes of maize daily to produce nutritional, high quality maize starch derivatives. All this under very hygienic conditions and with a qualified and trained workforce.



Products

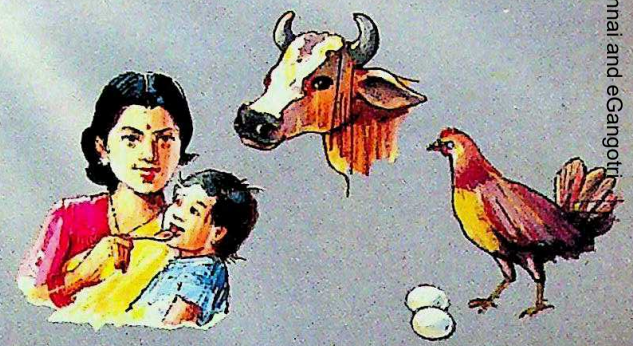
Liquid Glucose for the pharmaceutical, confectionery, food and beverage, tobacco and leather industries.

Dextrose Monohydrate for the canned food, pharmaceutical, food and beverage and cattle/poultry feed industries.

Maltodextrin for the frozen foods, ice creams, baby foods and dietetic foods.

K.G. Gluco Biols Limited also offers a range of by-products: Maize Gluten, Maize Fibre, Corn Steep Liquor, Hydrol, Maize Germ.

K.G. Gluco Biols Limited. Committed to hygiene and quality with the latest technology and machinery. A Company that's on the threshold of a great future.



For product literature and enquiries, please contact:

The Commercial Manager
K.G. Gluco Biols Limited
P.B. No. 8044, No. 85, 9th Cross Road,
Rajmahalvilas Extension, Bangalore 560 080
Phones: 344634, 344658 Grams: GLUCO BIOLS

K.G. Gluco Biols – Our concern is for your health.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

'90s is for the most part synthesiser love: it magnetises the audience with hi-tech and hi-gloss, but not with soul and sensuality. Even the moon seems to have gone out of romance; we now have neon moons and strobe lights. Nargis all awash in moonlight in *Awaara* is an image of beauty and yearning which endures, even though it might have been a paper moon. All one remembers of latter-day moon-lit nights is the make-up on the faces of the heroines.

Rain, too, has become just rain: or merely an excuse to drench the heroine and highlight her contours. "We also used rain to get past the censors, but there was a certain poetry about rain—ever since Kalidas. It created a romantic atmosphere," says Bharat Bhushan, the quintessential tragic lover of classics like *Mirza Ghalib* and *Baiju Bawra*, and how could one forget *Barsaat Ki Raat*. The long descent of water can be seen in films of Raj Kapoor. In *Shri 420*, the umbrella, the rain and Raj Kapoor and Nargis created an iconic moment in celluloid time. *Ram Teri Ganga Maili* uses water for titillation of the worst kind.

Nature has also come down a peg or two. The cool breezes, the waterfalls, the hills, the fruit-laden trees added passion to the scenes, as nature and peacocks did in miniature paintings. Now the cool breezes make the heroines' hair approximate Dimple Kapadia's luxuriantly bouncy crop in her Crowning Glory advertisement.

THESE are days of whines and poses really. Many of the young lovers are former models and it shows. They don't emote, they pose—"picturised" against the idyllic panoramas of Ooty, Kulu Manali and Kashmir in blue denim, baggys or rural chic. Even the cinematic references are to the ad world. For instance, in *Maine Pyar Kiya*, when a forlorn Salman gets his pigeon-delivered love letter, epiphany is shown by a splash in a glassful of a cold drink: the liquid soaring above the glass rim, just like certain aerated drinks advertisements.

Love has also lost its poignancy: it's become too accessible, too easy. "Being Indians, we go for Sufi poetry, the *nahin hone wali baat*," says Shashi Kapoor who caused a thousand flutters in his time. "Ten years ago you had Juliet, the woman in the balcony. Now there's Julie who will yell back or just run down and start the car."

That yearning which comes from separation, that old romantic concept of unheard melodies being sweeter, and the bitter-sweet agony of unrequited love, has evaporated with time. Accessibility killed it. Love came tinged with pain and a certain amount of sadness. Just an *ishara*, a look from afar showed the pain of the relationship. Now the boy and girl are available to each other.

Hi-tech might also have taken some of the mystery out of romance. "Black and white meant a certain mysticism," explains Shashi Kapoor. "Love meant 14 or 15 songs, beautiful close-ups, beautifully-lit shots. The bamboo trees would be back lit. There would be a fog. And the girl would move to the *alap* of Lata's lilting voice."

It's Cupid's day all right: a thousand romances will bloom. But many pundits of the film world attribute it to the industry's herd instinct, or "*bhed chaal*", as they say. A mere mid-summer madness brought about by the success of *Maine Pyar Kiya*, which will go away after a few romantic films begin to flop. But there are some eternal romantics who feel that even if the love fever subsides, it would have done its good deed. And critics looking back on this era may well describe it with nostalgia as (sigh!) the days of whines and poses.

—MADHU JAIN in Bombay

The love disease struck as action blockbusters were falling like ninepins.

Bobby Deol and Karishma Kapoor in *Jaan*; Sanjay Kapoor and Tabu in *Prem*: all in the family

K.G. Gluco Biols—Our concern is for your health.
K.G. Gluco Biols Limited
P.B. No. 8044, No. 85, 9th Cross Road,
Rajmahalvilas Extension, Bangalore 560 080
Phones: 344644, 344684 Grams: GLUCO BIOLS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MANUFACTURER-EXPORTER

Fortunately, the global market isn't as limiting as this sheet of paper.

Not when you're the Indian face of Unilever, one of the world's consumer-goods giants.

The Unilever Export Group in India. The nation's largest manufacturer-exporter.

The totality of Hindustan Lever Limited, Lipton India Limited, Brooke Bond India Limited, Pond's India Limited, and initiative unlimited.

With exports that brought in Rs.230 crores, in 1989.

Quality products. From blended and packaged tea, canned mushrooms, branded rice, and seafood, to cosmetics, personal-care products, garments, and footwear.

From 20 export-dedicated factories. And 70 export managers who define their business in two little words.

Value Addition.

THE UNILEVER EXPORT GROUP IN INDIA

Hindustan Lever Limited
Lipton India Limited
Brooke Bond India Limited
Pond's India Limited

THE LARGEST

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

VIDEO

Irritant Images

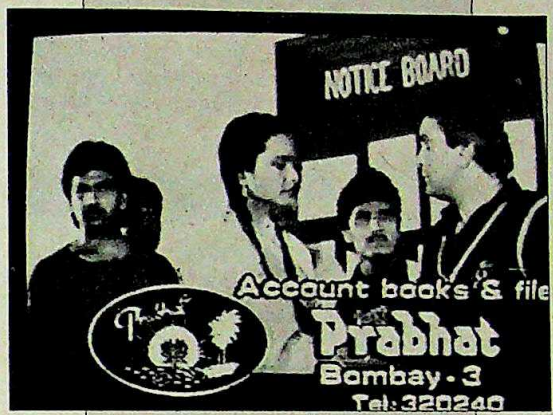
Superimposition of ads catching on

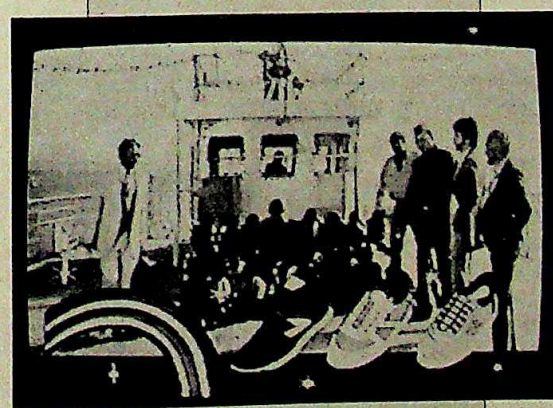
THE family has just settled down in front of the TV to watch the latest Amitabh Bachchan potboiler. The film starts with a fight sequence—Bachchan battling the forces of evil. Just as he swings at the villain, sending him sprawling, a small bottle suddenly twirls across the TV screen and settles at the base. A new movie gimmick? No, it is the world of superimposed video advertisements or "supers" as they are called.

As each day passes, supers are growing in numbers causing irritation among viewers who find that they now have to divide their attention between a new brand of underwear and the torrid scene that is unfolding on the screen. Complains a video buff: "It's impossible to concentrate on the film with a pair of socks traipsing all over the screen." Adds Anand Mehra, a Bombay video library owner: "Every day I have angry customers walking in complaining about all those things happening on the lower half of the screen. Some even ask if a copy of the tape without such advertisements is available."

But dealers like Mehra do not have much good news for their customers. Reason: considering the fabulous business that supers are turning out, virtually every Hindi film released on the video circuit now carries the distracting visual advertisements. Says Prem Shetty, an executive of Multichannel Advertising and Productions Private Ltd, which carries out nearly 80 per cent of the superimposition work: "Last year, of the 180 films released on video, we did about 100 of them. And this year the figure is likely to go up even more."

The new—if annoying—craze is fast catching on mainly because it is simple and cheap, thus attracting a wider range of advertisers. For superimposition all that is required is computer graphics and a small story line which lasts barely 10 to 15 seconds. And the cost is normally one-tenth that of a full-fledged commercial of similar length. Moreover, all this requires just a couple of hours. Says Shetty: "This cost-saving and speed with which it can be done has encouraged a lot of small advertisers, for whom the ratio of money spent to viewership is just mindboggling, to go in for supers."





Scenes from films with superimposed ads

The technique is popular with advertisers because it is cheap and cannot be 'zapped'.

The calculations tell the story. For every film that is released in theatres, about 25,000 first generation cassettes are printed. And for every first generation cassette that is bought by a video library, five duplicates are produced, making the total circulation about 1.25 lakh for each video film. With an average of 25 households watching each cassette, the number of households reached by each film is an astounding 31.25 lakh. The total viewership (at an average of four per household) reaches 1.25 crore. "And that's the reason why there are never any flops on the video circuit," explains Shetty.

Apart from the economics, there are other reasons that make supers attractive to advertisers. For instance, in a 180-minute video, if the film is about 160 minutes, advertisers can fill the remaining 20 minutes. However, if the movie is longer, then there is less advertisement space. The answer? Superimposed advertisements. Also, with manufacturers hiking their rates, supers are a good way of accommodating more advertisements within the same amount of time.

Supers are also a good medium for manufacturers who want to launch a new product or merely remind consumers about an old product.

According to Shah, managing director of Time and Gold video companies, another disadvantage of regular advertising clips is called "zapping"—the video viewer fast forwards the tape whenever advertisements appear. And as Shetty says: "After Intermedia introduced supers in the movie *Toofan*, they were convinced that zapping was not possible and the clients got their money's worth."

The clients who go in for supers range from blue chip companies to saree shops. Among the most popularly advertised products are Burton cigarettes, Pearlpet bottles, shirts and trousers. Normal rates for the superimposed advertisements range between

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Rs 5,000 and Rs 8,000.

Usually video companies buy full video rights for the movie. To offset the costs they have incurred in buying the video tapes from manufacturers these companies then sell out their advertisement space through various concessionaires (read advertising agencies). Usually there are about 20 spots for advertisements in a feature length movie.

Yet there are some who question the ethics behind supers. Asks Sajid Peerbhoy of Speer advertising agency: "Do you think it is right to thrust an advertisement on a person?" He feels that by over-exposing this method of advertising the agencies are inviting the Government to legislate. Says he: "This is a typical short-sighted attitude that Indian businessmen usually display without being troubled by the final outcome."

Another major shortcoming of supers is that they have no audio. According to Shetty: "People always remember the jingles. So, even if you get up when an ad-clip comes on and move into another room, you can still hear the jingle."

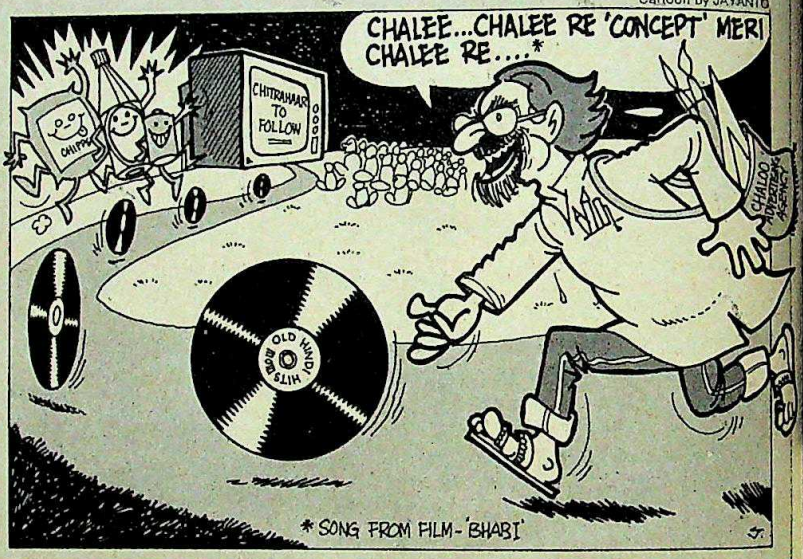
But that is hardly a deterrent. The subliminal impact of the advertisement is still rewarding enough for advertisers. And, unless the Government steps into the picture, video buffs will have to learn to live with their favourite hero or heroine partly obscured by a bottle of detergent.

—RAGHU NANDAN DHAR

JINGLES

Stealing Songs

Cartoon by JAYANTO



IF you see *Chitrahar* these days, you'd probably mistake the jingles of the advertisements preceding the programme for the real thing. For advertising agencies are increasingly depending on the power of old Hindi film songs; they are coming up with jingles set to old tunes to hawk products like shoes, soaps, eggs, chocolates and milk. Says Alok Nanda, associate creative director, Trikaya-Grey: "If you have a well-liked popular song it is that much easier for the advertiser to grab your attention."

The craze for old Hindi film numbers began with the award-winning campaign of the National Eggs Coordination Committee (NECC). Capitalising on the wistful "*Sunday ke Sunday*" song, the advertisement told viewers to try out "*murghi ke andey*". After its huge success, Enterprise (the agency that created the NECC campaign) followed it with a similar concept to sell Vigil soap. The clip showed cricket star Dilip Vengsarkar enjoying himself in the bathtub, while the jingle in the background went "*tandurasti ka sabun*", set to the tune of "*ek pyaar ka naghma hai*". Explains Enterprise chief Mohammad Khan: "The basic idea of a jingle is to become memorable. If you have an old favourite, you can create the aura of nostalgia. Why reinvent the wheel?"

Even Twist, the new chocolate Cadbury's will be test-marketing this month, will be sold to the tune of the zany *Bhoot Bangla* number, "*aao twist karen*". And Lakhani will be selling shoes with the help of one of the most memorable songs in the history of Indian cinema: "*mera joota hai Japani.*" The advertisement features children racing on tricycles, singing "*mera joota hai Lakhani.*"

That's not all. Lakhani advertisements for hawai chappals use the number "*hawa hawai*" from the film *Mr India*, while the advertisement for shoes takes-off on the famous Hasan Jehangir number, "*hawa hawa*". The incredibly successful Binnie's campaign is based on a popular number from a Mithun-starrer, *Jeete Hain Shaan Se*.

Wheel detergent uses "*dekho dekho dekho*" from the song in *An Evening in Paris* which went "*aisa mauka phir kahan milega*". Tata's coconut-based hair oil uses "*ye reshmi zulfein, ye sharbati aankhen*" from the old Rajesh Khanna film, *Do Raastey*. And Usha has used "*thandi hawayen, leherake aaye*", to hawk its fans. Some years ago, Aarey milk colony of Bombay used "*dil pukare, aare aare aare*" to sell milk.

But Nanda cautions: "The jingle will work only if it fits perfectly with the image of the product. You can't use it for its sake." The mania has spread to print advertising as well: Saeed Jaffrey sells Prudent toothpaste with catchy captions based on popular songs like "*aaj paheli tarikh hai*", "*hawa hawa*", and "*ay ji o ji*" (from *Ram Lakhan*).

Not everyone is happy with this trend, though. Says Kamlesh Pandey of Rediffusion: "Hindi songs are used only to make the job of the lazy and mediocre composer easier. People who are not hungry to do exciting work do this for cheap and easy popularity. It is a short cut. It has no lasting impact." But he adds that there is nothing wrong with well-integrated advertisements like the egg campaign. Nanda defends some advertisements: "Jingles remind consumers of advertising with a capital A, and rightly so. Film songs have more character. There is nothing wrong in marrying the two characteristics if it helps the advertisement to stand out amidst the clutter of advertisements."

While the advertisements haven't shot to the top of the pops as yet, they are often more hummable than the film songs of today—and that's no mean achievement.

—SALIL TRIPATHI

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

PRESENTING
THE STATE OF THE ART SPLIT AIRCONDITIONER.
USHA ULTRA.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MULTI SPLIT UNITS. SOFT TOUCH CONTROLS. MICROPROCESSOR PRECISION. CORDLESS REMOTE. INDIA'S MOST ENERGY EFFICIENT COMPRESSOR.

AFTER 25 YEARS OF EXPERTISE IN REFRIGERATION, WE OWED IT TO YOU.

The new Usha Ultra. India's first cordless remote controlled split airconditioner. With its very own distinctive features, which no airconditioner in India offers. And besides a new high in cooling, look at what else the Usha Ultra has to pamper you with. ■ Easy to clean filter cartridge system with a timer. ■ Integrated locking system for the condenser unit to prevent tampering. ■ A unique cordless remote. ■ A Shriram Tecumseh AW Series Compressor for greater, quieter cooling with the lowest power consumption. Apart from all that, Usha Ultra can be mounted on the floor, or on the wall or even on the ceiling. And comes to you in 1.5 & 2 ton capacities in split and 2, 3 & 4 ton capacities in multi-split. All in all, amazing airconditioning, backed by SRI's 25 years technological base in refrigeration. Usha Ultra. State of the art in split. It's tough indeed to call anything else airconditioning.

Please rush me more details.

Name ----------

Designation ----------

Company ----------

Address ----------

Ph: ---------- Tlx: ----------

USHA ULTRA

Shriram Refrigeration Industries Ltd.

Balanagar Township, **Hyderabad**-500 037, Tel: 260103, 264532, Telex: 0425-6224 SRI IN.
Sales Offices: Delhi: 5415371, 5431995 **Lucknow:** 79004 **Bombay:** 4370983; 4379476 **Ahmedabad:** 462005 **Madras:** 619383, 619360 **Bangalore:** 643845 **Secunderabad:** 847256 **Calcutta:** 297800, 297633 **Bhubaneswar:** 407698

STATE OF THE ART IN SPLIT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MAPP-GR-90-1229
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"It was a morning of rare beauty"

"The garden was bathed in a soft awakening glow. My wife was absorbed in picking flowers for the house. While I strolled down the garden path cool in my Gwalior whites. At peace in this oasis of tranquil splendour."

M.A.K. PATAUDI

GRASIM GWALIOR SUITING

IN A CLASS OF ITS OWN

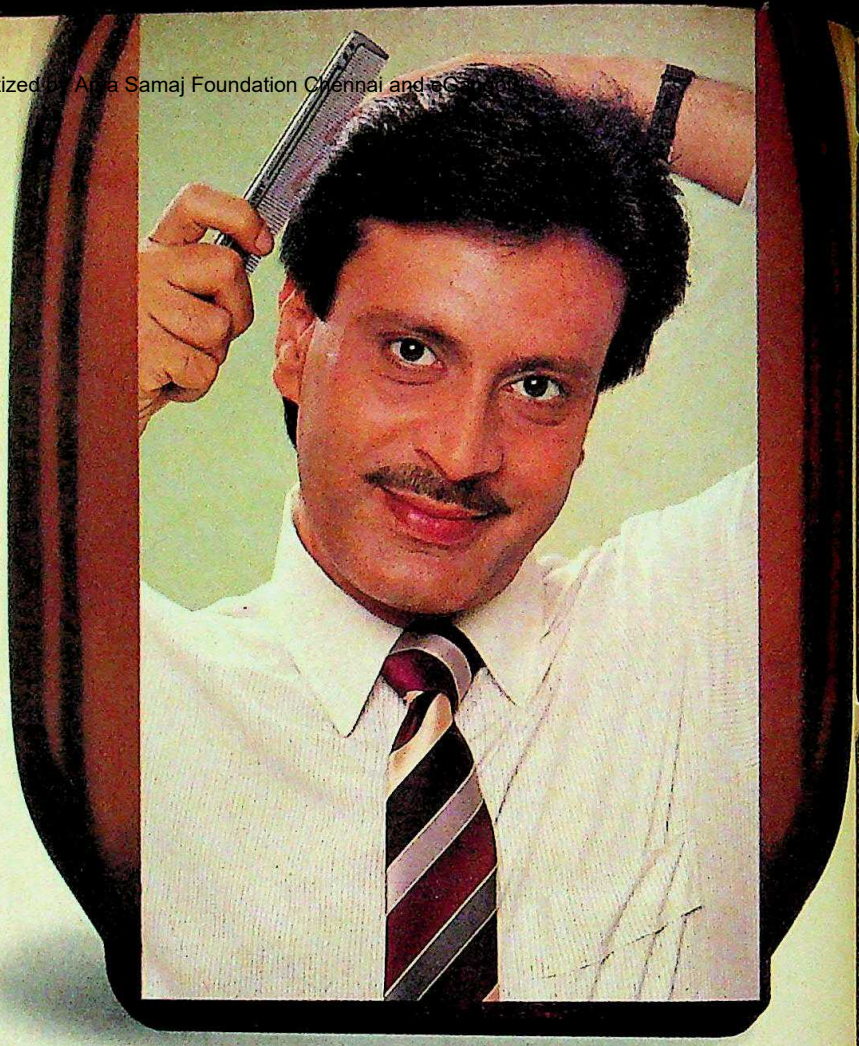
A PRODUCT OF GRASIM INDUSTRIES LTD.

FOUR DECADES OF CLASS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"I was impressed when my doctor said Keo-Karpin Hair Vitalizer really stops hair loss.



But I was convinced when I used it."

"My doctor told me Keo-Karpin Hair Vitalizer* is a unique scientific formula based on extensive research. He also told me it provides all the essential proteins, co-enzymes and vitamins for strengthening hair roots.

All I know is that it has certainly stopped my hair from falling and checked dandruff."

Here's an excerpt from the research report :

"66.66% gave excellent and 33.33% gave good results with complete disappearance of dandruff in all cases and near cent per cent stoppage of fall of hair... So, success rate with Keo-Karpin Hair Vitalizer may be stated to be cent per cent.

Indian Medical Gazette 118, 223 (1984)

The proven scientific way to prevent hair loss and dandruff.

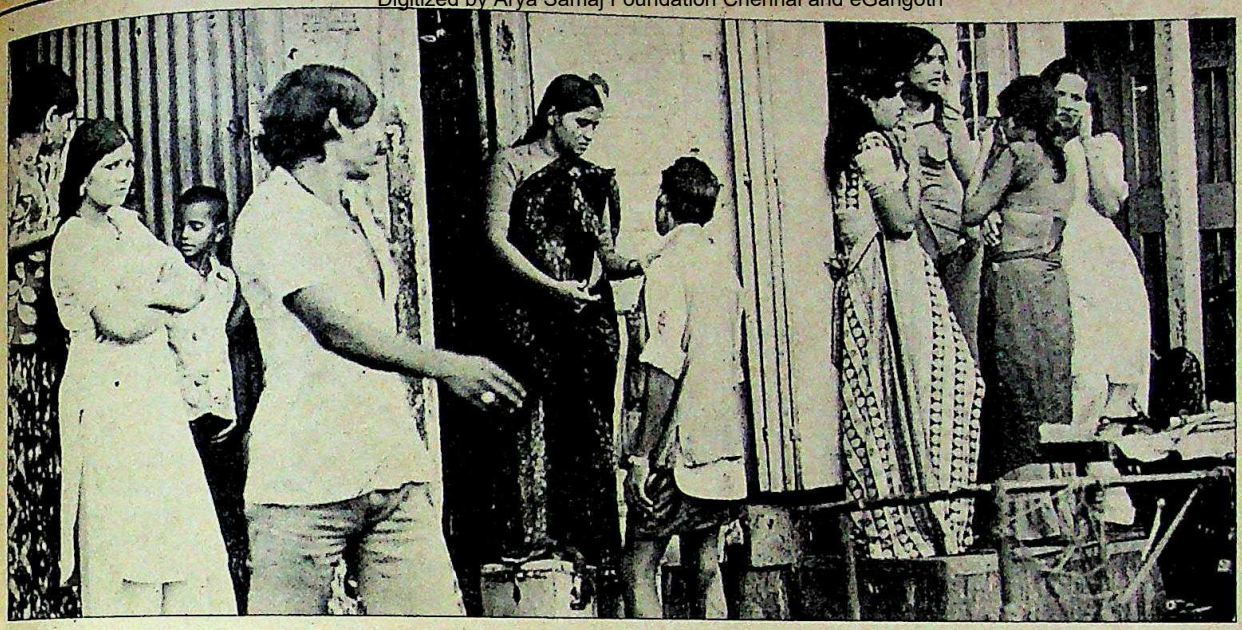
* It is not a toilet preparation.

Dey's® **Dey's Medical. Care you can trust.**

TSA-C/DM-HV/189

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Prostitutes in Bombay: high-risk group

AIDS

A Red Light

Drive among prostitutes has little effect

THE world is worried about AIDS. But not Madhavi, a 17-year-old prostitute in Bombay's red-light area, Kamathipura. *"Kya hai ye Aidus-baidus?"* (What is this aidus-baidus?) she asks. And then adds with supreme confidence: "Nothing will happen to me." Her blithe unconcern is echoed by Rukminibai Bansode, a brothel-keeper. Says she: "Not one girl here has got AIDS. It exists only in the minds of a few doctors and journalists."

What that really means is that the much-publicised plan, of the Indian Council for Medical Research (ICMR) for controlling AIDS in red-light areas has died a natural death. Prostitutes run an extremely high risk of exposure to AIDS. Of the 2,000 prostitutes in Bombay who have been examined for HIV (human immuno-deficiency virus), 150 have tested positive. Since there are an estimated one lakh prostitutes in Bombay, the actual number of prostitutes carrying the virus would be much higher.

In Delhi, 700 prostitutes of an estimated 2,000 were examined. Only two tested positive, but the number could increase rapidly. Says Dr A.S. Paintal, director-general, ICMR: "With one lakh sexual intercourses a day with infected prostitutes in Bombay alone, the virus is sure to spread all over the country." Worse, because so far only 4.24 lakh high-risk individuals have been screened, no one is sure of the extent to which AIDS has spread in India.

Paintal's organisation has offered a monthly stipend of Rs 1,500 to infected women who consent to withdraw from prostitution but not a single prostitute has taken up the offer. An infected prostitute in Delhi's G.B. Road explains why: "Why should I accept this money when I earn Rs 500 a day?"

While it is obvious that the plan to isolate and rehabilitate infected prostitutes hasn't worked, the panic created has jeopardised surveillance. As a doctor in Kamathipura explains: "If we try to take blood samples, they run away."

In the absence of an AIDS vaccine, all doctors can do is promote the use of the condom—currently the only effective way to prevent infection during intercourse. But most clients are reluctant to use condoms and the march of the AIDS virus seems unstoppable.

The only chinks of light in this gloomy situation come from the efforts of a few individuals. Two such are Dr Gita Bhave, head of the Department of Microbiology at Bombay's King Edward Memorial Hospital and Dr Y.N. Singh, senior resident at New Delhi's All India Institute of Medical Sciences.

Bhave made her entry into Bombay's red-light area by providing medical services and treating common diseases. In the first year, she did not talk about AIDS at all, but got in touch with the local general practitioners. Then she gradually convinced brothel-keepers of the need to keep a watch on AIDS. Only after building a rapport did Bhave and her team test a batch of volunteers among the prostitutes.

Bhave's team did not promise prostitutes free medicines or jobs. Instead, they distributed free condoms. Reports Bhave: "After the first AIDS death of a prostitute (in 1988), some men have started using condoms, even if somewhat reluctantly."

In Delhi, oblivious of Bhave's efforts, Singh too was trying to establish rapport with the prostitutes. "The intitial response to my counselling," he says, "was one of suspicion." But things changed slowly.

Today, Singh commands tremendous respect in the *kothas* and when he appealed to prostitutes to feature in a 28-minute video film on AIDS, six of them unconditionally agreed. Among the prostitutes themselves, the film has met with a healthy response. "At times," says Singh, "business was dropped in favour of the film." One effect of the film, which the World Health Organisation has termed "a unique experiment in AIDS awareness", was that the second round of blood screening found far more volunteers than the first.

The next step is to tackle the prostitutes' clients. Singh is following up eunuchs and truck drivers. And Bhave is identifying sexually active groups in banks, offices and government organisations. It promises to be a long and difficult battle. But it's a battle India cannot afford to lose.

—SUDHIRENDAR SHARMA with SALIL TRIPATHI in Bombay

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DOM MORAES

"I'm writing better than ever"

AT 19, Dom Moraes won the Hawthornden Prize in England, for his first book of poems, A Beginning. *This was in 1958, and he was the first non-English person, and to date the youngest, to do so. For an entire generation of graduates, Oxford became synonymous with Dom. Seven years and two books later, he suffered a writer's block that lasted 17 years. In 1982 he began to write again; and* Serendip *is his first new collection in 25 years. Though sometimes charged with being obscure, Dom remains, for sheer facility and fluency, without equal among Indian poets. Copy Editor* TARUN J. TEJPAL *spoke to him in Bombay, where he stays with his actress wife Leela Naidu. By turns cynical, facetious and morosely serious, the poet discussed his craft and his calling. Excerpts:*

Q. How do you perceive the second phase in your writing career?

A. I think I'm writing better than ever before.

Q. Edward Lucie-Smith wrote that the enormous early notice you fetched had been no kindness to you, for you'd found it difficult to break out of the 'fluent sentimentality of your first manner'.

A. He was right. My second collection was rather bad. I was over-confident; convinced I could get away with anything. The third book was the best. And, yes, I hope I've shed my first manner—it took me 17 years to do so.

Q. Why do you think poetry failed you for so long? Was it too much journalism?

A. Actually, I wrote quite a lot bu didn't think it was good, I didn't want it be published—absolute shit. It was journalism because now I do much mo than I used to—something like six c umns a week. It was, sort of, not knowi where my base was. I was travelling over the place and I think I've been every country in the world either as editor or a UN official.

The thing I missed for 15 or 16 yea was the sound, a kind of insistent sound it may be two words, might be one li the noise it makes becomes obsess so that you just have to fit this no into a complete, larger noise. Then 1982 it began to come back, and I ha been writing quite a lot since.

Dom (left) and Ezekiel in London, 1960

Difficult Image

SERENDIP
by DOM MORAES
Viking (Penguin India)
Price: Rs 95; Pages: 79

LESS than three yea after the publication his *Collected Poe 1957-87*, Dom h gifted his readers w new poetry of a rath different kind. Its fo sections Serendip sonnet sequenc Steles, Barrows and Other Poems clude a few that resemble the earl ones, but the rest make greater deman on those willing to take them serious Though they need not be described obscure, they are certainly difficult. T casual communication that was n mally expected from Dom is now m ing, perhaps transcended.

I do not refer only to the use mythology in these poems which D rightly defends in his Introduction. A to the "private shorthand...in the form a condensed image" which, Dom clai "is absorbed in the texture of the word

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Q. In retrospect, do you regret those years?

A. Well, I regret that I didn't write any worthwhile poetry for so long. Yet, you know, Wordsworth has said poetry is emotion recollected in tranquillity. I think having done all that, I can now transmute the experience.

Q. How do you reconcile your poetry with your journalism?

A. So long as you separate the two, it works fine. The two pursuits are so removed that they can't impinge on each other. The experience of journalism can help poetry. In any case, I prefer it to being an academic, because I feel if you teach you are not experiencing any kind of life.

Q. How do you feel about being excluded from the Indo-Anglian canon? For example, Bruce King's book left you out.

A. I don't think there's any such thing as Indo-Anglian literature. You are either a writer writing in the English language or you're not.

Q. Well, in order to form a narrower definition. Does it pique you to be left out of anthologies of Indian poets, even while you are included in British ones?

A. Why should it? I'm rather alone—I don't feel very close to Indian poets. Anthologies, in any case, generally consist of the editor's friends. King's book didn't have Vikram Seth either.

Q. Actually, it did. Incidentally, what's your opinion of Seth?

A. Very talented craftsman. *The Golden Gate* was a real triumph.

Q. But hadn't you termed it a Mills & Boon romance?

A. The story, yes. But virtuosity on that scale—I don't think it's possible for anyone to repeat that.

Q. How do you rate his latest collection of poems?

A. Extremely disappointing.

Q. What do you think about poets like Jayanta Mahapatra and Shiv Kumar?

A. I think they're well-meaning.

Q. And Ezekiel?

A. He's made a significant contribution, especially in developing younger poets.

Q. What do you think hampers the Indian poet writing in English?

A. Not knowing English.

Q. What of the much talked of surge in Indo-Anglian literary writing?

A. I fear it may have a touch of overemphasis. One needs to compare oneself with the best across the world. It's dangerous to ensconce yourself in a small anthill—it can easily break, sending all the ants scattering for shelter. Among the new lot, Allan Sealey is very good.

Q. What's been the greatest poetic influence in your life?

A. Auden and Allen Tate, both of whom were in Oxford when I was there.

Q. And Stephen Spender?

A. He's been important in a personal way, but he hasn't influenced my work.

Q. Do you think poetry gives society or politics any direction?

A. It can—though normally it makes for very bad poetry. But then Neruda is beautiful. I remember in Chile mobs dancing on the roads singing Neruda's poetry—a very strange sight.

Q. Do you subscribe to Eliot's theory on the 'impersonality of poetry'?

A. Yes, now I do totally. In my youth I've written confessional poetry, but now I always write it through a mask, a mythological person, as in 'Babur'.

Q. Do you think it's necessary to be unhappy, alcoholic, suicidal to write poetry?

A. No. In fact, Dylan Thomas's later poems were bad. Auden's last poems were shit.

Q. About the language of poetry: do you think it should reflect common speech patterns, as Eliot used to say, or be uplifted as Brodsky desires?

A. In my opinion it should both reflect common speech patterns and be slightly lifted above them.

Q. You have been accused of being obscure, and Serendip *might fetch further such charges. Do you have a reader in mind when you write?*

A. Yes, I do. I don't think the poems are obscure for the serious reader. I think there are several thousand people out there like me who would like to read the kind of poetry I write.

Q. What's the chief ambition left?

A. To write some more poems, and to help some young poets.

Q. Do you think you've written a great poem?

A. No. But I can recall many bad ones.

Q. What would your advice to young poets be?

A. What George Barker gave me at 18: go suffer and sing. To that I could add: live and die in yourself and then write.

The critical question is whether, allowing for the devices used and the relevance of the allusions, one eventually understands these poems and responds to them appropriately. I must confess I often felt lost among them, the private shorthand remained private even after repeated readings as did the condensed image.

Time to quote here are the first three stanzas of Ghosts:

Hurtful invaders; at our wet doors
We smeared clocks blurt out new syllables.
Where the birds fly, for what reasons,
Questions for the defrocked oracles.
Also the ships, in the third season,
Chafe in their slips, frot bows on walls.
Dissidence possible in these farewells
By you, whose absence has become our fault.
The bleached scribe falters, query whose
Brutalised shadows fell at dawn, unfelt.
Whose ghosts, exorcised by liquor, burned
In escalations of a noon wind?

It is, of course, possible to "translate" every poetic phrase into its prose meaning so that it adds up to the situation projected by the poet, with some guesswork about the characters indicated. But returning to the poem is not a rewarding experience. There is something artificial about the smeared clocks, the defrocked oracles, the brutalised shadows and the noon wind's escalations the like of which there are scores scattered in the book.

In his Introduction, Dom sneers at a prospective "cross reviewer" who has "flipped through these pages and ascertained his deadline". What this implies is that a critical view of the *Serendip* style need not be taken seriously. As for deadlines, dear Dom...well, never mind.

The *Serendip* sequence is described in the Introduction as "a chronological account of actual events in Sri Lanka" ("Ceylon was at one time known to travellers by this name"). Dom had lived there for two years as a child. Perhaps more information about the events referred to, except the well-known recent ones, would have helped the reader to appreciate these poems fully. A note on Steles and on Barrows would have been helpful too. The one on 1668 certainly does help. Is Dracula by the way "a modern myth"? Who would understand New Year without Dom's explanation that "the ancient practice of human sacrifice at specified times of the year is the centre of the poem"?

I cannot praise *Serendip* as I did the *Collected Poems*, only because it needs an analytical study rather than a short review.

—NISSIM EZEKIEL

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION

Blanked Out

Cancellation hits thousands of Indian students

FOR Jyutika Garud, a student at the Academy of Architecture in Bombay, the American dream has turned into a nightmare. Like 6,600 other Indian aspirants, her Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores—an essential pre-requisite for admission to over 900 US universities—have been cancelled. The reason: rampant cheating and leakages in the 27 cities where the test is held in India.

After a five-month investigation, last month the Educational Testing Service (ETS)—a non-profit body based in Princeton, US, which administers the GRE in over 170 countries—decided to reduce the number of tests and centres in India. Explains Charlotte Kuh, executive director, GRE programme, in Princeton when contacted by INDIA TODAY: "Students at all centres had access to large parts of the examination. At first we thought it was geographically limited." Admits Dr Liddell of the Institute of Psychological and Educational Measurement in Allahabad, which registers students for ETS-run tests in India: "It is a widespread problem."

That offers little consolation to thousands of innocent Indian students who stand to lose a year of their academic life. Says a livid Garud: "I will have to spend over Rs 20,000 on my portfolio again as I will have to reapply to nine universities." Because of the score cancellation, those who'd planned on going to the US this Fall Term (September, 1990) will now have to wait a year as the next test in April clashes with university exams in India, and most admission and financial aid decisions in the US are made by early spring. Complains Nisreen Chinwala, who proposes to study genetics at a US university: "I was planning to go this year. But I will now have to go one semester late which means I will miss out on assistantships because those decisions will have been made."

Kuh is sympathetic about problems created for those students who did not cheat. "We realise that this decision discriminates against those good students who had no pre-knowledge of the test," he says. "But since many Indian students perform brilliantly in GRE, it is difficult for us to separate statistically those students who had pre-knowledge and those who were good anyway." Adds John Hennessey, academic and former ETS trustee: "I am shocked and alarmed that this has happened. But cancelling scores is necessary in a situation like this to preserve the integrity and validity of the tests. ETS has no alternative even though the short-term costs to individuals is high."

The GRE, which tests proficiency and aptitude in arts and science fields for over 100 courses, has had an unfortunate run since October last year, when its scores were cancelled and a make-up test was offered in January. Those too were cancelled. The December test was not held at all. Its make-up test, in February, is now cancelled. And even the February regular test scores are cancelled—affecting two tests and two make-ups, involving over 8,000 students.

Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

The method of conducting the examination, which is administered the same day worldwide, was a recipe for disaster. The sealed question-papers were airlifted into India a fortnight before the test date, giving ample time for touts to pilfer the papers. A student from the Banaras Hindu University claimed he could buy GRE papers for Rs 500. There were also rumours that students would team up and answer only particular sections of the tightly structured examination, and exchange answers during the break. ETS, however, is tight-lipped about what went wrong. Says Kuh: "There was a problem in our shipping process." Adds ETS official Ray Nicosia: "There have been cases of leakages in the past, but nowhere is it as widespread as in India."

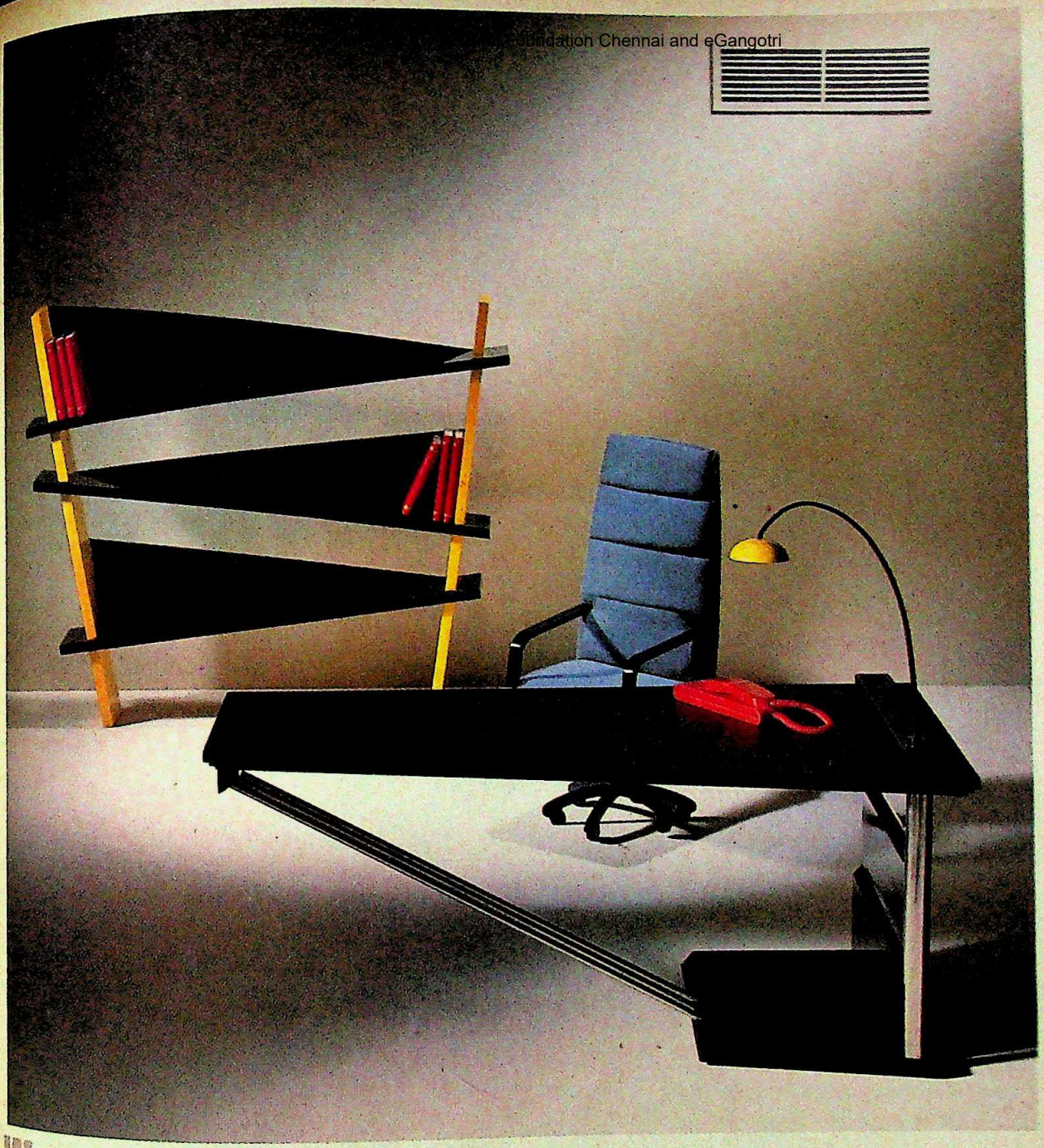
But most students maintain that instances of cheating are rare. None had seen it happen. In fact, supervision is regarded as very strict and the seals on bundles of question papers are broken in front of the students. Says Jyoti Rangarajan, a student of molecular biology: "It is such a time-bound test. There's no time to look around." ETS has also come in for heavy flak from the students for poor communication. Says Umrao Monani who wants to study life sciences in the US: "They are so inefficient. We heard about cancelled scores through rumours from friends." Ajay Ravindranathan even sent a telex to ETS to check the veracity of the rumours about cancelled tests, but did not receive any reply.

Though nearly 14,000 Indian students take the test annually (out of the 3,66,000 worldwide) and over 7,000 go to the US each year, the damage to the credibility of the Indian students in the US is minimal. The fact that nearly 20,000 of them are pursuing demanding courses and performing brilliantly is eloquent testimony to the fact that the cheats are in a minority.

—SALIL TRIPATHI

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



When the phone rings, do you reach for the receiver or the air conditioner switch?

If you switch off the air conditioner every time you take a call because you can't hear a word. If you've had enough of noisy air conditioners, get yourself an Amtrex split. It has a separate condenser unit that's placed outside, so it makes no noise. And a perfectly streamlined air-delivery system inside. Which makes it the most noiseless split air conditioner available. To get one, raise your voice for one last time and call Amtrex.

AMTREX

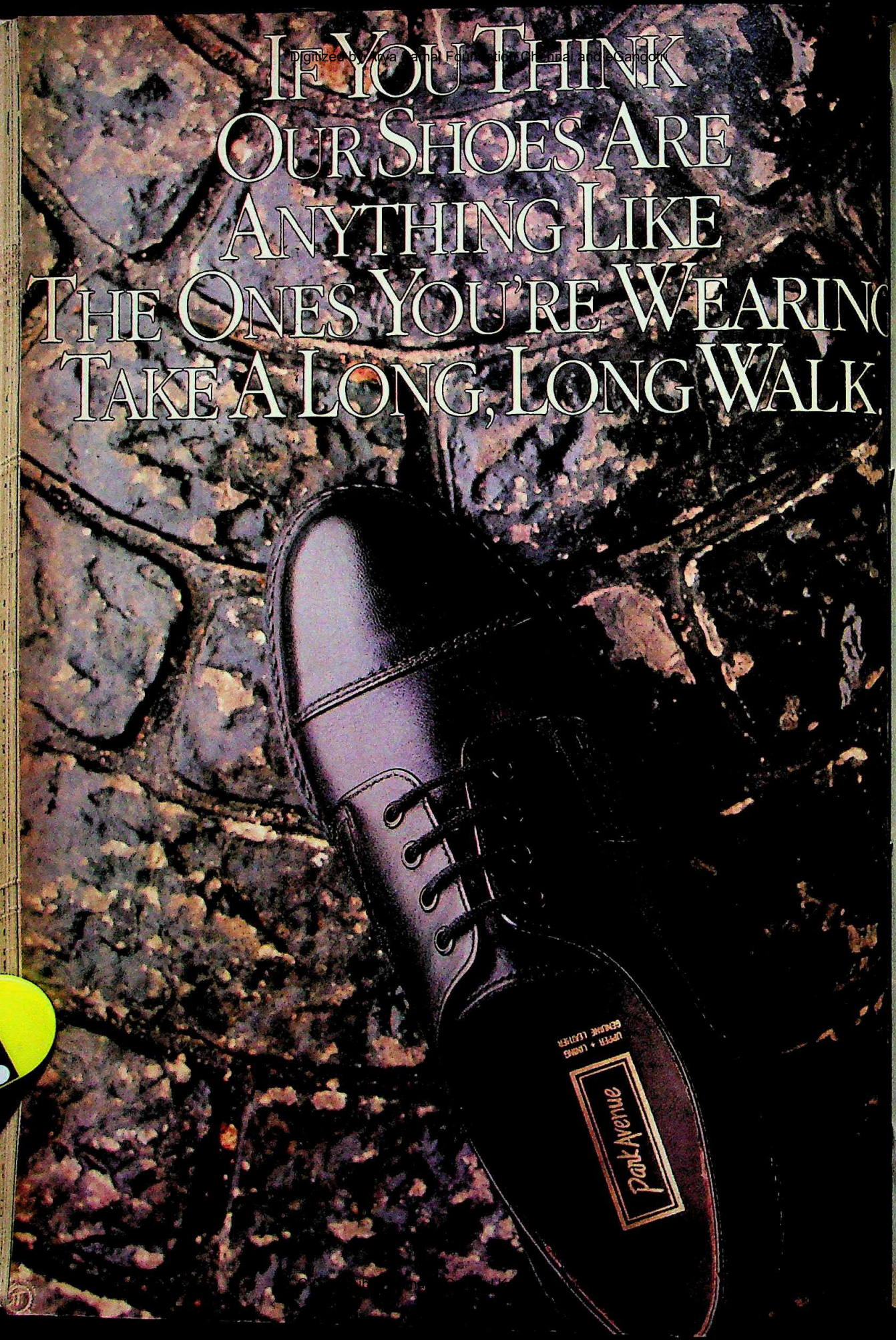
SPLIT AIR CONDITIONERS

Available in split and multi split models of 1 to 4 tons. Amtrex Ambience Ltd. (A Lalbhai Enterprise), 'Rachana', Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad Offices: Ahmedabad 383035 Bangalore 75179 Baroda 328895 Bhopal 65191 Bombay 233896 Calcutta 467519 Chandigarh 25147 Indore 65140 Lucknow 40670 Madras 457266 New Delhi 6832955 Pune 661693 Secunderabad 228755

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

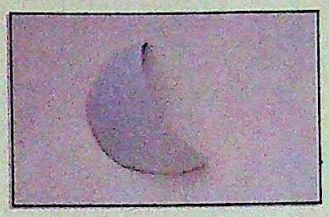
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

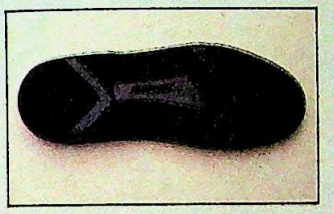
If You Think Our Shoes Are Anything Like The Ones You're Wearing Take A Long, Long Walk.

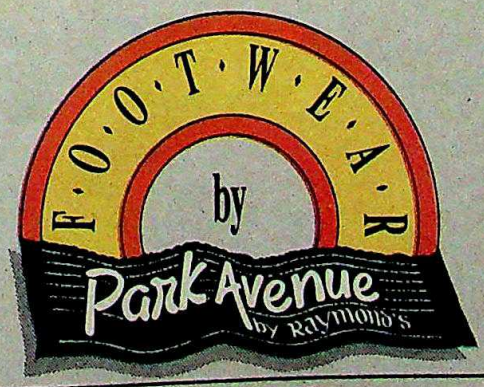


Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

act. For our shoes are so durable, they'll carry you for miles and miles perhaps even. all over the world. And here's how we keep our shoes ship shape. We've used our world class technology, machinery and materials to identify and strengthen three hi-stress areas. Check out our thermoplastic toe caps that prevent scuffing at the tip of our shoes. The thicker, water-resistant soles that are not joined to the heel, but made with the same cut of material. And the sturdy heels made with a combination of thermorubber, PVC and rubber. Guaranteed to never let you down. All this to give you the perfect sole-mate.







WORLD CLASS DESIGNER SHOES AT YOUR FEET.

Available at select Park Avenue outlets

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Rado DiaStar 'Ultra':

As bright as a gem.

A Rado classic presents itself with new brilliance: flatter, more elegant and fully scratchproof. Case and bracelet are made of scratchproof hardmetal. Together with the nearly diamond-hard sapphire crystal it is a valuable timepiece that looks, even after years, just as new as on the first day. The Rado DiaStar 'Ultra' has a Swiss quartz precision movement. It is available in white and golden-yellow versions at an amazingly competitive price.

RADO
Switzerland

Rado. Official Timekeeper
of XI Asian Games, 1990.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TOBACCO UNITS

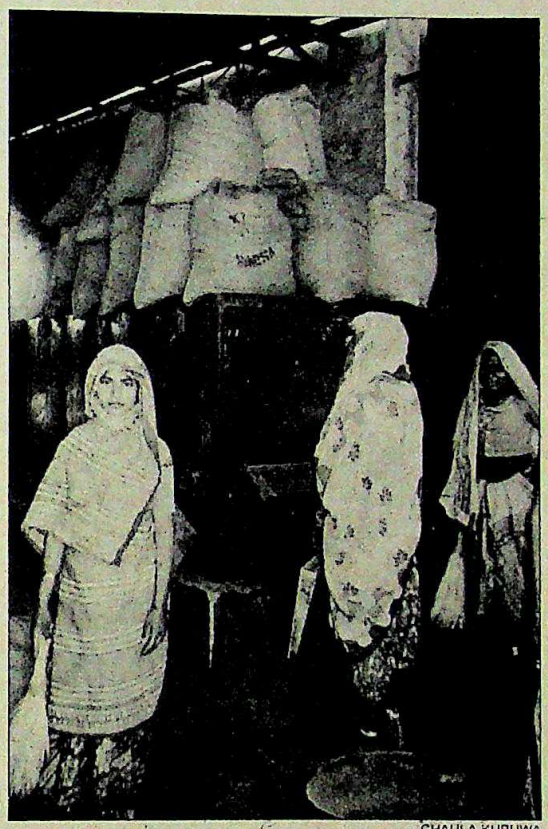
Snuffing Out Lives

Workers in Gujarat labour in inhuman conditions

TRAVELLING through central Gujarat's Kheda district gives the impression of unalloyed prosperity. Opulent mansions dot the countryside. And even in remote villages, swank Contessas are common, along with the odd Mercedes Benz and Toyota. That prosperity comes from tobacco, the region's principal crop, and the mansions and the cars belong to the Patels who own the 600-odd tobacco-processing units in the district with an annual turnover of Rs 300 crore.

But the impression of well-being is only the veneer of the picture. Underneath is a dark, exploitative world inhabited by the 40,000 labourers working in *kharis* or tobacco-processing units. The working conditions are inhuman, the hours long. Diseases due to exposure to tobacco dust are common. The pay is a fraction of that prescribed by the Minimum Wages Act. As for medical allowances, gratuity and bonus, most workers haven't heard of them.

It is, sadly, an all-too-familiar story. But increasing social awareness and the efforts of voluntary bodies have prised open a wedge of light in the dark and dangerous world of tobacco workers. Next fortnight, the Gujarat High Court is scheduled to hear a case filed by Lok Adhikar Sangh, a local voluntary organisation, against the exploitation of workers in tobacco-processing units.



Workers in a tobacco unit: few options

CHAULA KURUWA

Not that the judiciary is unaware of the situation. "Appalling is too mild a word to describe the labourers' working conditions," noted a committee set up by the Gujarat High Court in 1987 to investigate conditions in the *kharis*. But the fact that nothing much was done subsequently has destroyed any hope among the labourers of working conditions in the *kheris* getting any better. They couldn't get any worse.

Hiraben Ishwarbhai Macwan, 52, is a typical tobacco worker. She has been working for 33 years now. "I began working on a daily wage of 75 paise," she recalls. "Later it was hiked to Rs 5 and then to Rs 10 three years ago."

Though Hiraben does not know it, the Minimum Wages Act prescribes a minimum wage of Rs 24. But then, the law is not something many *khari* owners take note of. Most maintain two salary registers. An official one showing a wage of Rs 24 on which the workers' thumb impressions are taken. And an unofficial one for their own use.

Kheda has over 600 *kharis*, but only 240 are registered under the Factory Act. The rest escape the provisions of the Act by bribing labour officials.

Nevertheless, the worst aspect of the *kharis* is the atrocious working conditions. Says Joseph Macwan, Sahitya Akademi Award-winning Gujarati writer: "The smoke screen of tobacco dust and the foul smell make a tobacco-processing unit virtual hell."

Tobacco processing basically entails trans-

GAUTAM TRIPATHI

A RAW DEAL

RAMJIBHAI CHRISTIE, 55, has been working in a tobacco unit for 40 years. As a supervisor, he used to get a lump sum payment of Rs 300 a month. Then in 1988, his employer learnt that he was suffering from tuberculosis and asked him to quit. Later, after treatment, Ramjibhai recovered marginally and came back to his employer pleading to be taken back. After a great deal of persuasion, his employer agreed, but on one condition—Ramjibhai would be put on daily wages. Says a dejected Ramjibhai: "I have spent Rs 3,000 on my treatment but am yet to get a single paisa from my employer."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

forming raw leaves into tobacco or snuff. But the process involves numerous stages—sorting, cleaning, crushing, purifying—which envelopes the entire work area in a thick haze of hazardous dust.

Further, few *khari* owners provide gloves and face masks prescribed by the law to protect workers from the dust. A majority of the workers suffer from diseases like tuberculosis and asthma. Worse, many of the young women—over 60 per cent of the labourers are women—bring their children with them to work, exposing them to the same hazards.

As the committee appointed by the Gujarat High Court in 1987 concluded: "The workers are exposed to health hazards which ultimately damage their health and earning capacity. They are constantly exposed to the tobacco dust but there are no safety measures. Even the children go to *kharis*... the next generation is also doomed to a life of ill-health and diseases."

For most workers, though, there's no alternative. Says Paniben Chauhan, 52, a widow from Mogri: "If I go to work, I start suffering from asthma. If I don't, I lose wages and am reduced to begging."

Begging is exactly what Nandaben Parmar, an 85-year-old widow, has been reduced to. She suffered a serious back injury at work three years ago. Unable to carry on, she pleaded with her employer to help her financially since she had worked for four decades in his *khari* and was a widow. The owner refused. She survives by begging.

Last year, Ichhaben Parmar, 49, was buried under a heap of open tobacco sacks. After a two-hour search, she was pulled out—unconscious and bleeding from the nose. Doctors extracted two litres of sticky tobacco dust from her stomach. Laments Ichhaben: "I am disabled for life. I cannot take solid food as my food pipe is severely damaged."

GAUTAM TRIPATHI

BLEAK FUTURE

JITENDRA PARMAR, 14, was a brilliant student, but economic circumstances forced his mother to pull him out of school and put him to work in a *khari*. Two years ago, he was cleaning a tobacco-cutting machine when his employer inadvertently switched on the power supply. As a result, two of Jitendra's fingers got chopped off. Later, the *khari* owner refused to even meet him. The Self-Employed Women's Association intervened, but all it could extract was Rs 3,500. Says a member of the organisation: "Had we gone to court, the owner would have won. Since Jitendra was a minor, his name was simply not there on the official register."

CHAULA KURUWA

Workers with children: vulnerable

When she returned to work, her employer refused to take her back.

Ichhaben's case has now been taken up by the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) which is trying to get her a decent compensation. SEWA has also been attempting to organise the workers for five years now, but with limited success. One reason is that the workers come from different communities and the *khari* owners are able to divide them along caste lines.

The owners, naturally, hotly deny the charges of exploitation. Says Arunbhai Patel, a member of the Gujarat Tobacco Merchants' Association: "We don't deny exploitation and circumvention of the labour laws but it's on a very small scale." Adds Bhikhubhai Patel, association secretary: "The charge that workers are paid much below the wages prescribed by the Government is a lie." He also claims that health hazards caused by big chemical and fertiliser units are much more than tobacco units.

What cannot be denied is that the *khari* owners carry considerable clout. Admits G.L. Bhagat, state labour commissioner: "It is difficult to produce results when the workers refuse to cooperate with us for fear of reprisals from the owners. They need to organise themselves." Girish Patel, a lawyer who has been fighting cases on behalf of the workers, disagrees: "Most of the labour officials," he alleges, "are in collusion with the owners."

Whatever the truth of that allegation, what's indisputable is that none of the labour laws is implemented in the *kharis*. And the Government cannot exonerate itself of responsibility for that. Certainly, it has the powers to implement the law. What is obviously lacking is the political will.

—UDAY MAHURKAR in Khaira

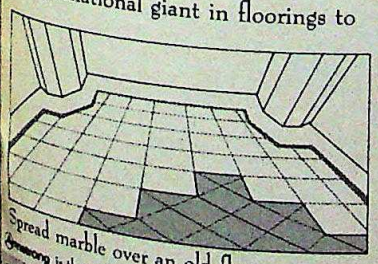
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Marble creates history again.

With blended marble flooring.

Carara is a new kind of marble. Blended Marble. It is crafted with the technical expertise of ARMSTRONG, the international giant in floorings to give you: ◆ The Thinner Marble. Tough enough to last a lifetime. ◆ The Quicker Marble. Spread it over existing floors within a few hours! Without the inconvenience or expense of bulky marble. ◆ The Colourful Marble. Blended in a palette of colourants to give you the most unusual shades of marble. ◆ The Economical Marble. Carara is available in a range from Rs 20 per square foot onwards – almost nothing for floors as good as marble.



Spread marble over an old floor.

CARARA

Blended Marble Flooring

Armstrong

A FLOOR ABOVE THE REST.

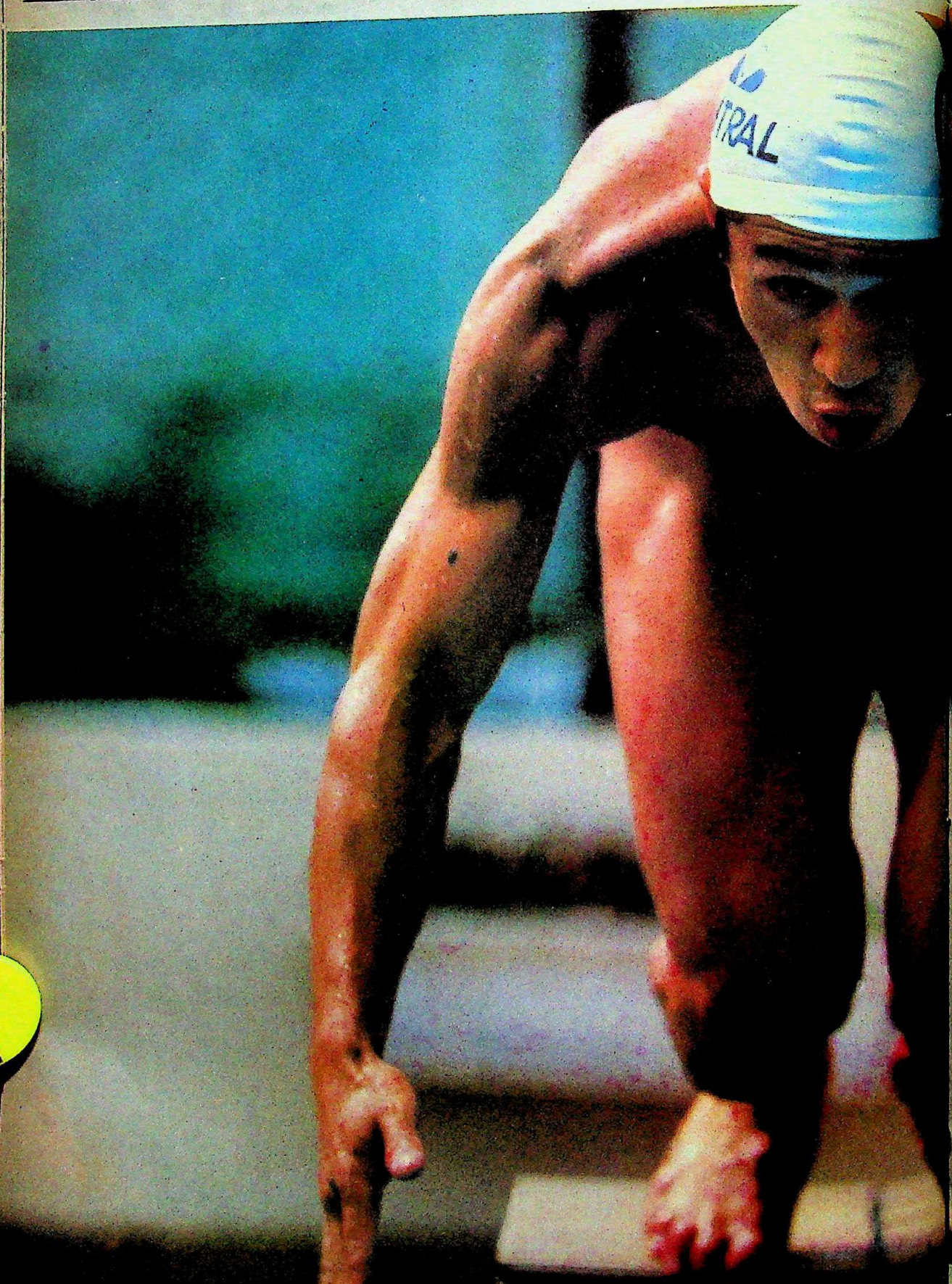
HTA 2440

Armstrong is the trademark of Armstrong World Industries Inc. USA, and is used in India by Inarco Ltd. under licence.

HEAD OFFICE: BOMBAY Inarco Limited, 12 A Advent General J. Bhosale Marg Bombay-400 021 Ph: 2022621/2022213 Telex: 011-3633 ✶ DELHI: Inarco Limited, Ph: 3712049/3712253 ✶ MADRAS: Inarco Limited, Ph: 475191/476596 ✶ CALCUTTA: Inarco Limited, Ph: 444990/432768 ●

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

India is set to make a splash as a key industry power



For more details, please contact : BOMBAY : 314 D.N. Road, Fort, Bombay 400 001. Tel: 2045621 ● CALCUTTA : Hongkong House, 31 BBD Bagh, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta
Tel: 286797 ● NEW DELHI : 4/E BMC House, N. Block, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: 3312068 ● MADRAS : 30 Rajaji Salai, Madras 600 001. Tel: 514001.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

wer of the 21st century...

Are you competent to take the plunge?

Abundant supply of raw materials. Extensive work force. A country pulsating with potential. This is India. Already the 10th largest industrial producer in the world, and predicted to power ahead to the top by the 21st century... Warm up now. Or remain a passive spectator, then.

But you belong to the new breed of fiercely competitive entrepreneurs. Bold, perceptive, alert to opportunities. You need a bank that shares your vision — HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division.

We're totally at home in the Indian market. With 21 offices in major cities. Plus full-fledged Merchant Banking branches at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras. Capital markets, government policies, domestic joint ventures, corporate counselling, leasing, feasibility studies. We're adept at them all, and much more.

On the international front, very few banks can match our expertise. We're part of the HongkongBank group — one of the largest banking groups in the world. With 1,300 offices in 50 countries, linked by a global communications system. For fast decisions. Worldwide.

Indeed, if you're willing to take the profitable plunge, call HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division. The bank with local insight and global outlook.

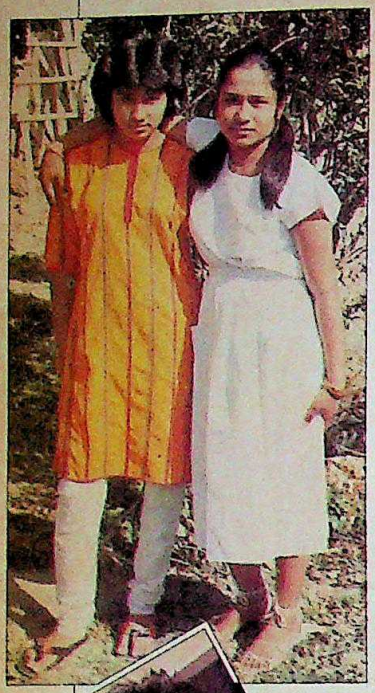
HongkongBank
Merchant Banking Division

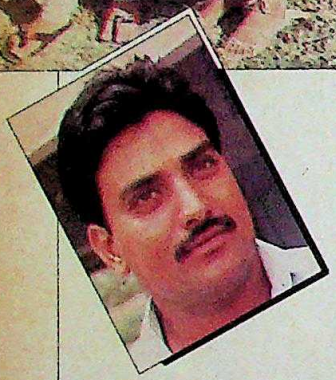
Joint Ventures • Foreign Collaborations
Mergers, Acquisitions, Take Overs • Feasibility Studies
Funds from Capital Markets • Leasing • Export Finance
Swaps and Options • Trade Financing
Euro Currency Facilities • Corporate Counselling

For businessmen on the move.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





Abhay; (top) Supriya, Kanta

◆ In the midst of his various controversial pursuits that keep him in the headlines **Abhay Singh**, the wayward son of Om Prakash Chautala and grandson of Devi Lal has even found time to prove that life is not all the rough and tumble of politics. In an uncharacteristically quiet ceremony last fortnight he wed Kanta, 18, at Grandpa Devi Lal's ancestral home in Village Teja Khera. **Kanta** happens to be the younger sister of Supriya, Abhay Singh's wife who died of gunshot injuries under mysterious circumstances two years ago. The case was officially logged by the police as "accidental death". Congress(I) leaders in Haryana had alleged that Supriya had committed suicide over Abhay's suspected involvement with Kanta. But now, with the two having tied the knot, one more controversy seems to have been buried by marital bliss.

◆ International diplomacy is no child's play. But it can be a lot of fun if the intention is merely to promote peace—and the tool is a remote-controlled toy plane. Buzzing over international borders, the **Telemaster**, a 3-kilogram model aircraft made of balsam wood, completed a historic flight between Dhaka and Amritsar last fortnight. In the process, the toy plane also made its debut into the record books as the first remote-controlled aircraft to fly between India and Bangladesh.

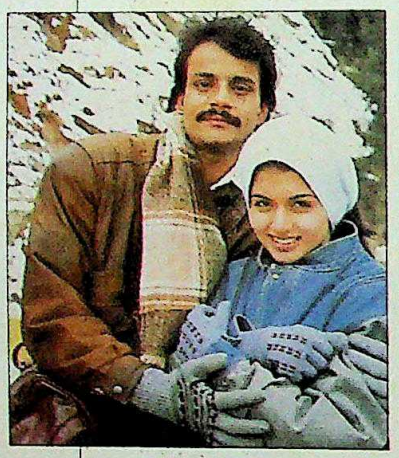
Sponsored by the Rotary Club of Delhi, Mid-West and Air India to 'promote international goodwill and peace', the 3,100-km journey took a total of 15 days to complete. Telemaster was 'piloted' by rotarian businessmen Y.P. Jahagirdar and S.M. Hussein. Hopefully, their next flight will be between Islamabad and New Delhi.

Telemaster: flying diplomat

Flather: standing out

◆ Even among her illustrious and colourful colleagues in the House of Lords, Shree **Flather** stands out. That hardly surprising considering her choice of attire—brightly coloured saree. Flather, 56, is the first woman of Indian origin to be nominated to the House of Lords, Britain's Upper House of Parliament. Married to an English lawyer and the mother of two sons, the elegant and articulate Flather has an illustrious public and political career behind her. A Tory politician, she was the first non-White magistrate in England. "I'm delighted at my new assignment," she says, adding forcefully: "And I'll continue to wear only the saree."

◆ After a year of intense cross-questioning, it's finally legal. Celebrity lawyer and budding politician Ram **Jethmalani** has found *pyar* at last. At April-end, she will marry Prem Shankar Jha. No less a celebrity in her own right, Jha is a well-known journalist and currently editor of the Dhirubhai Ambani-owned *Business and Financial Observer* due to make its appearance shortly. Says Ram: "I am very excited about it. But what's really reassuring is that I am marrying a man who is not going to interfere with my life and work." No legal loopholes, as usual.



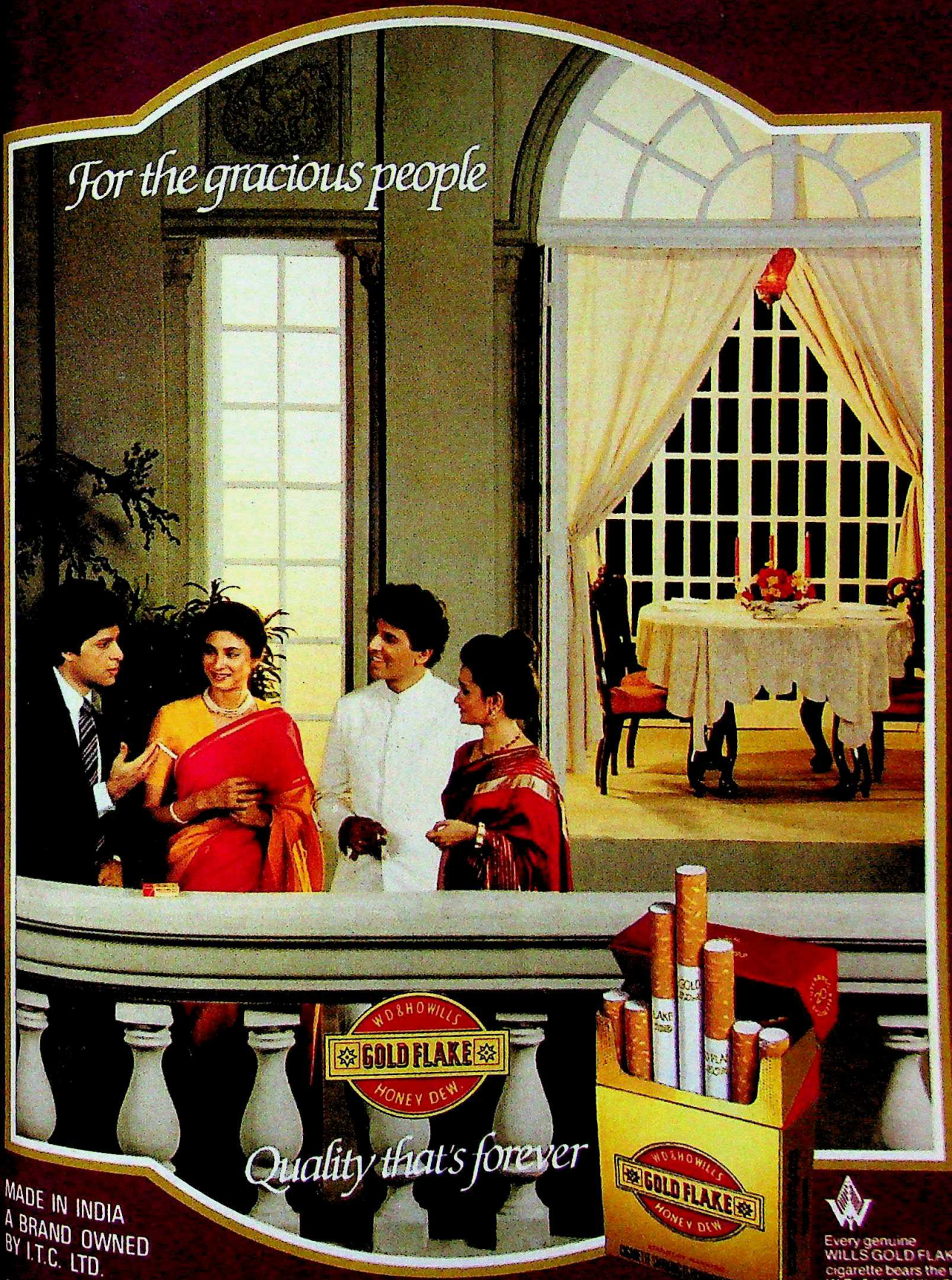
Bhagyashree and Dassani

◆ It's another instance of life imitating art. Well, almost. In the record-breaking film, *Maine Pyar Kiya*, **Bhagyashree**, 20, plays a teenager who falls in love for the first time. But the real romance, it turned out, was off the sets. Halfway through the film she married her boy-friend, Himalay Dassani. By last month, she had delivered her first son, Abhimanyu, and exited from the film scene as fast as she entered it. "Film careers and marriages don't go together," she says. The film, in fact, was just a case of "passing time"

Jha, Jethmalani: legal vows

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



MADE IN INDIA
A BRAND OWNED
BY I.T.C. LTD.

Every genuine
WILLS GOLD FLAKE
cigarette bears the name
W.D. & H.O. WILLS

STATUTORY WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CLARION C-GFK-1681

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Kawasaki RTZ. Ride it to believe it.

The Cheetah
The perfect animal.
The Kawasaki RTZ.
The perfect bike.
Both tough... powerful.
With looks that can kill.
Sleek... and graceful.
The Kawasaki RTZ.
Superbly balanced.
The mean riding machine.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY

MAY 31, 1998

THE BACHCHANS: FEELING THE HEAT

SHARJAH: A CRASS CARNIVAL

BENAZIR BHUTTO

PLAYING WITH FIRE

PAKISTAN: ON THE SPOT REPORT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

LIVE LIFE KINGSIZE

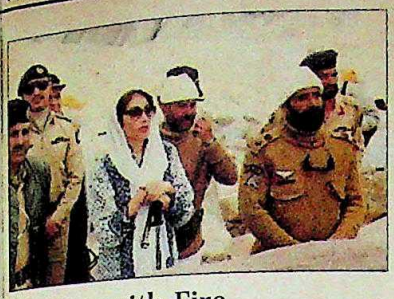
FOUR SQUARE
KINGS

All the taste, all the way

STATUTORY WARNING : CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Playing with Fire

The shrill campaigning over Kashmir may have helped Benazir Bhutto retain her hold on power, but she has lost ground to the army and the clergy. Her position now is fragile: if she cools off her campaign she will be damned at home, and if she lets it escalate it may lead to a war with India which she doesn't want.

COVER STORY 22

Feeling the Heat

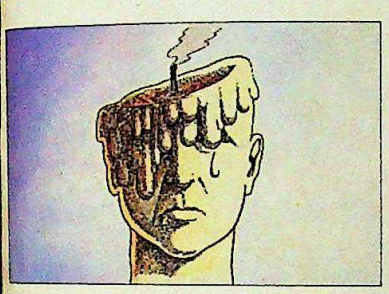
The Government is reopening cases of financial irregularity against the Bachchan brothers. Among these are the purchase of a flat in Switzerland by Ajitabh, and his claiming of foreign exchange in India while being an NRI. Meantime, a review of Amitabh's tax returns of the last 10 years has begun.

SPECIAL REPORTS 30

Crisis of Leadership

With Rajiv Gandhi unable to provide clear policy directives on various issues, the Congress(I) is pulling in different directions. More important, following his failure to score significant political successes against the V.P. Singh Government, many Congressmen are growing disenchanted with his leadership.

SPECIAL REPORTS 37



Spreading Scourge

The fast pace of modern life, the increasing emphasis on achievement and the breakdown of social institutions like the family are laying more people, belonging to all age groups, open to the scourge of depression. But with the availability of some new drugs, the hopes for a rapid cure are better than ever.

SPECIAL FEATURE 68

A Defiant Passage

By successfully moving the state secretariat from the safety of Jammu to terrorist-ridden Srinagar, Governor Jagmohan has asserted the strength of the administration over the militants. But a far greater test will come over the next six months that the secretariat will remain in the summer capital.

SPECIAL FEATURE 75

A Crass Carnival

The annual cricket tournament at Sharjah is now an extravaganza of cash, colour and commotion which overwhelms the game on display. At the new Mecca of one-day ties, the glitterati of the subcontinent put up an especially crass show, and the India-Pakistan rivalry electrifies all the goings-on.

SPORTS 129

CONTENTS

COMMENT 11
CAPITALOOK 14
VOICES 19
INDIANOTES 20
COVER STORY
Benazir Bhutto: Playing with Fire 22
SPECIAL REPORTS
The Bachchans: Feeling the Heat 30
Congress(I): Crisis of Leadership 37
CURRENT EVENTS
St Kitts: Booking the Suspects 42
Inside Eye: Why Arif Weeps 43
Janata Dal: Fierce Feud 45
Cyclone: Killer Wind 46
Madhya Pradesh: Inhuman Act 47
Sign Posts 47
Ram Janmabhoomi: Acting Tough 48
Uttar Pradesh: Ill Wind 53
Meham: The Crucial Contest 55
Cauvery Dispute: Trying Waters 58
Bottomline: War Games 60
Bharatiya Janata Party: Looking Ahead 65
CRIME
Veerappan: Elusive Bandit 67
SPECIAL FEATURE
Depression: Spreading Scourge 68
GLOBE-TROTTING
United Kingdom: Leasing Issue 72
SPECIAL FEATURE
Kashmir: A Defiant Passage 75
BUSINESS FEATURE
Malanpur: Corporate Craze 82
TRADE WINDS 89
BUSINESS
Prices: High Anxiety 92
Planning Commission: Big vs Small 95
ADB Meeting: A Gala Affair 101
MAC Group: Dire Straits 106
Businesspeak 108
Reliance Industries: Taxing Charges 113
The Markets: Up and Down 115
THE ECONOMY MONITOR 117
GRASS WITHOUT ROOTS
Not a Drop to Drink 119
AVIATION
Airbus 320: Stunning Disclosers 120
SPECIAL FEATURE
Terai: Terrorism's New Threat 123
SPORTS
Sharjah: A Crass Carnival 129
ENVIRONMENT
Bastar: Dangerous Damage 139
ECOLOGY
Gir Sanctuary: Killing Fields 140
DEVELOPMENT
Cremation: Burning Issue 142
CINEMA
Tamil Nadu: Professional Passion 147
SCIENCENOTES 150
BOOKS 155
LIVING
Temple Artistes: Vanishing Tribe 159
EYE-CATCHERS 160

Cover photograph by BHAWAN SINGH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Now, an exclusive new line of luggage that's worth a lot more than its looks.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

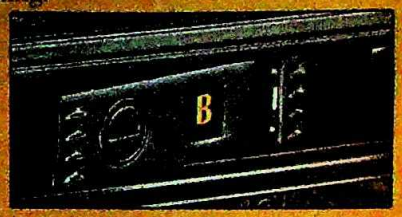
[illegible] of luggage and you'll know it's [illegible] before. The reasons aren't hard

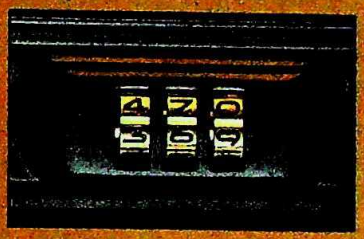
Like the best luggage the world over, Odyssey is made from ABS.

A revolutionary new material that's incredibly tough yet amazingly light. And good looking.

No other luggage is so beautiful.

With its neat, dignified lines. Its understated elegance. The sleek contours. The luxurious finish. All of which give it that distinguished look.





You'll love those classy little touches

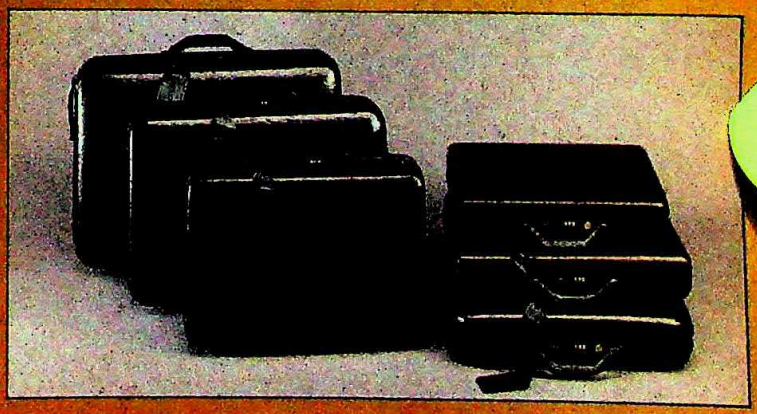
Like the sophisticated locking system: Soft eject locks that open silently. Plus, a centre combination lock for total security. And the matt finish frame.

Beautiful outside. Even more beautiful inside.

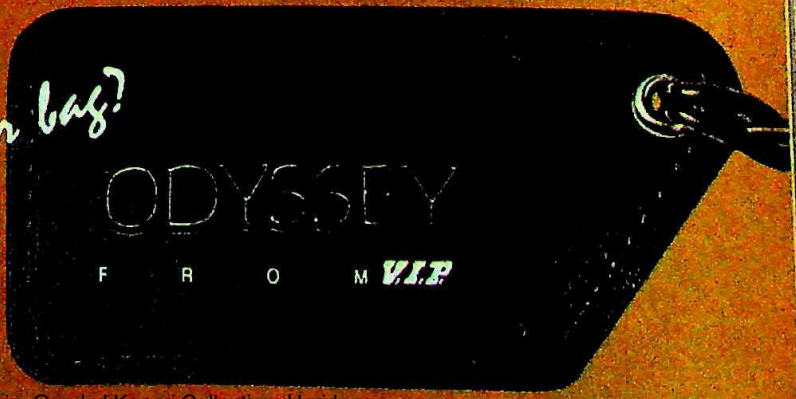
Open an Odyssey and you'll find... a rich suede lining. A divider for separating your papers from your clothes. A handy tie-rod. An elastic strap to hold things in place. Exclusive features designed with your needs in mind.

Odyssey. Luggage so exclusive, nothing else comes even close to it.

Come see our beautiful range of suitcases and briefcases.



Is this tag on your bag?



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

HTA 2534

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

As soon as we reach one summit, we strive for the next.

Century ... India's largest exporter of cotton textiles. Now also a leading producer of cement.

From a modest beginning in 1975, Century has blossomed into India's largest exporter of cotton textiles. Earning more than Rs. 100 crore in hard currency in the year 1989-90.

Over the years Century diversified into rayon yarn, tyrecord, minerals & chemicals, cement, pulp & paper and shipping. In all these areas the Company has made its mark.

In cement, the Company has achieved remarkable success in a short time. Cement manufactured at its most modern plants, CENTURY CEMENT, MAIHAR CEMENT, MANIKGARH CEMENT is now being marketed in almost all parts of the country.

Century is now exploring new avenues to create more productive assets for the country, and more opportunities for our people to better the quality of their lives.

CENTURY

Century Textiles and Industries Limited
Century Bhavan, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Bombay 400 025.

— the dawn of a new era

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE MUSIC FACTOR

The current crop of romantic movies owes its phenomenal success to powerful and lilting music more than any other factor. While the puppy love rage in cinema may just prove to be short-lived, the music in these films will certainly keep the counters jingling for a long time to come.

Dehra Dun — VIMAL KAPOOR

BOUQUETS AND BRICKBATS

Maneka Gandhi's dedication to the conservation of nature and her love for flora and fauna is commendable ("One-Woman Army", May 15). So long as she is taking decisions in the Ministry of Environment and Forests, she will ensure that those who pollute our environment in the name of industrialisation and development don't get away easily.

Bombay — N.R. RAO

■ Your special feature does not mention Maneka Gandhi's lopsided approach to pollution control. For example, in Delhi all the blame for polluting the environment is being put on motorists. And not a word is mentioned about the Government's Indraprastha and Badarpur thermal power stations which continuously spew coal ash, sulphuric acid and nitric acid fumes over the capital. How can the Government point a finger towards the motorists and not check pollution by its own agencies?

New Delhi — I.J.S. BASSI

THE WRONG CLUB

In the write-up on aero model aircraft Telemaster (Eye-catchers, May 15), the name of the host club, Delhi, has been given as Rotary Club of Delhi Mid-West instead of Rotary Club of Delhi Westend.

New Delhi — RAKESH MEHTA

FAILED SECULARISM

Kashmir is the second state where India's policy of secularism has failed miserably ("Perilous Turn", April 30). The least the Centre can do now to salvage the situation is to take tough measures like blockading mosques that shelter secessionists and abrogating Article 370 of the Constitution.

Ahmedabad — VINAY KAPUR

■ Your report gave a really one-sided picture of the present situation in Kashmir. Deaths of Kashmiri pandits have been highlighted and blown out of proportion while the killings of Kashmiri Muslims have gone completely unnoticed. In fact, more Muslims have fallen to the bullets of militants in the valley but the media hasn't really bothered to cover this. What is worse, Muslims living in Kashmir Valley have to face a double-edged sword—the militants and the security forces.

Bombay — SHAW A.Q.

■ The happenings in Kashmir concern every Muslim living in India. Instead of being silent spectators, the Muslims and their various organisations should act. On an individual basis, they should write to their relatives and friends in Pakistan to bring pressure on the Benazir Bhutto Government to desist from adventurism of any kind against India, and stop aiding militants in Kashmir and Punjab.

Also, it is necessary for the leaders of the Indian Muslims to tell the Pakistan Government that Muslims in India are happier than those in Pakistan. Now is the time when Indian Muslims should prove their patriotism and commitment to secularism.

Telengana — HAJI SHER KHAN

■ It has been mentioned in your report that the Srinagar office of Mercury Travels has been closed down. Actually our office is still functioning, though business activity is very low due to the prevailing situation in the valley.

Srinagar — RAJ AWASTHI
Manager, Mercury Travels

ACT DECISIVELY

"Confusion of Consensus" (April 30) reflects the state of mind of every thinking individual. Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh must act decisively and without delay, otherwise people will lose faith in him.

Secunderabad — B. MADHAVRAO

DAWN OF DEMOCRACY

■ The beginning of the democratic process in Nepal ("Return to Democracy", April 30) was a much-awaited development and King Birendra needs to be lauded for bowing out in its favour.

Jamshedpur — KANCHAN GHOSHAL

FRENZIED DIATRIBE

Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav's crusade against English is as absurd as it is irrational ("Lingua Francas", April 30). In a multilingual country like ours, English acts as the link language. By saying that English corrupts, does the chief minister mean that those who don't use this language are not corrupt?

Meerut — P.N. BANERJI

■ Mulayam Singh Yadav is sadly ignorant when he equates the English language with Christianity. At least in 60 per cent of the schools in Uttar Pradesh, teaching is conducted in Hindi; and 95 per cent of the state's Christian population is Hindi-speaking.

Kanpur — CHHOTEBHAI

JOINING ISSUE

Your article on Larsen & Toubro ("On the Firing Line", April 30) has missed a few points. First, it is irresponsible to state that BoB Fiscal played a "dubious role" to facilitate the Ambanis' entry into L&T. The legality of this transaction is clear from the judgement of the Bombay High Court. In any case, this block of shares was not necessary for appointments on the board. A hundred qualifying shares are the only legal requirement.

Secondly, you have not been clear about the role of the financial institutions who seem to have suddenly done an about-turn from their sworn affidavits in the Bombay High Court as well as

VOLUME XV NUMBER 10; FOR THE FORTNIGHT MAY 16-31, 1990

● EDITORIAL OFFICE: LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. F-14/15, CONNAUGHT PLACE NEW DELHI 110001. PHONE: 3315801-4. TELEX: 31-61245 INTO IN CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● SUBSCRIPTIONS: LIVING MEDIA INDIA LIMITED. POST BOX 706, FARIDABAD-121007, HARYANA ● TRADE CIRCULATION: INDIA TODAY CIRCULATION MANAGER. F-14 CONNAUGHT PLACE. MIDDLE CIRCLE. NEW DELHI. PHONE: 311 9076-8. TELEX: 31-62634 INTO IN ● ADVERTISING OFFICES: 28 A&B JOLLY MAKER CHAMBER II. NARIMAN POINT. BOMBAY-400021. PHONE: 2026152, 2029126, 2029435. TELEX: 11-5373 THOM IN. CABLE: LIVMEDIA. BOMBAY ● K-9, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS. NEW DELHI-110001. PHONES: 3325378, 3323576, 3321323 AND 3321273. TELEX: 31-62124 THOM IN. CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● FAGUN CHAMBERS, 26 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROAD, MADRAS-600105. PHONE: 477188, 479163. CABLE: LIVMEDIA MADRAS ● 74/1 ST. MARKS ROAD, BANGALORE-560001. PHONE: 213037, 212448; CABLE: LIVMEDIA, BANGALORE ● 12C EVEREST 46C CHOWRINGEE ROAD, CALCUTTA-700016. PHONE: 445398, 417726. CABLE: LIVINMEDIA, CALCUTTA ● COPYRIGHT 1987 LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. REPRODUCTION IN ANY MANNER IS PROHIBITED. PUBLISHED BY AROON PURIE FOR LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. NEW DELHI AND PRINTED AT THOMSON PRESS INDIA LTD. FARIDABAD HARYANA ● INDIA TODAY DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURNING UNSOLICITED PUBLICATION MATERIAL ●

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SEE BETWEEN THE LINES

Even after
you've heard about it all
and read about it all – see it all
on India's first newsmagazine on
video cassette – ***NEWSTRACK***
Press the play button and you're
on the ringside seat –
to people, places, events, issues –
incisively covered like on no
other medium ever before

▶ ONLY ON NEWSTRACK ◀

SPECIAL OFFERS

SINGLE CASSETTE
- Current Issue Rs.145/- and a money-back guarantee.
- Back Issues Rs.135/- each.

SUBSCRIPTION
- Annual Rs 1380/- and a FREE *INDIA TODAY* ADDRESS BOOK *

* Offer valid upto June 30, 1990. Address Books will be delivered at your given address.

Mail a DD/Cheque favouring
Living Media India Limited to P.O. Box No.29,
New Delhi – 110 001.

Cheques/ Demand Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

For more details contact
Delhi: 3320689. Bombay : 2027867.
Madras : 479163.
Calcutta : 445398. Bangalore : 210834.

Home delivered by courier or Registered Post

India Today Presents
NEWSTRACK
▶ The newsmagazine to watch ◀

MILESTONES/IT/236

the Supreme Court. What is this alleged wrong that is sought to be righted? If there is any wrong, surely the remedies should be sought in the courts instead of using the brute voting strength of the financial institutions.

Thirdly, you have questioned the "diversion" of funds. What were these alleged Reliance Petrochemicals funds diverted to purchase L&T shares? Also, what was so mysterious about the L&T suppliers' credit offered for "unnamed" Reliance Petrochemicals projects? The prospectus issued by L&T precisely details all the proposals.

New Delhi — TONY JESUDASAN
Group Advisor, Corporate Communications, Reliance Industries Limited

■ *Our story did not question the legality of the BoB Fiscal transaction, merely the fact that the institutions in an unusual move had sold a large block of L&T shares to the Ambanis. Moreover, if the Ambanis only needed a hundred qualifying shares to get onto the L&T board, what was the need to enter into a complicated transaction with the financial institutions to acquire a 7 per cent stake in L&T? The letter also glosses over details of where the Ambanis raised the estimated Rs 150 crore (by their own admission) to buy a 12-per cent stake in L&T. There are two critical issues. Why did L&T raise Rs 820 crore from the stock-market in October 1989 when the suppliers' credit only amounted to Rs 300 crore (The figure has since increased to Rs 600 crore)? The L&T prospectus besides making vague references to new projects does not spell out how the company proposed to use the money.*

—Editor

C-DoT SAGA

"Czar under Siege" (April 30) clearly shows that C-DoT was run by Sam Pitroda so that some of his family-owned companies in the US manufacturing software, hardware and hybrid circuits could benefit. Also, the scientists and engineers of C-DoT failed to achieve their targets in the stipulated time.

Madras — K. BALAJI

■ India's telecom programme is bound to suffer a major set-back with C-DoT engineers and scientists, mostly from the Indian Institutes of Technology and other reputed institutes, planning to resign. They will undoubtedly be looking for greener pastures elsewhere in India and abroad and will want to work in organisations which are free from controversy.

Bangalore — SHRIKAR BHAGATH

PROMISING PLAYERS

Despite the decline in the game of seasoned tennis players like Vijay Amritraj and Ramesh Krishnan, the younger lot which includes players like Zeeshan Ali, Vasudevan and Leander Paes, hold ample hope for the future of Indian tennis ("A Promising Future", April 30). Gaurav Natekar, Rohit Rajpal and Mark Ferriera too have a lot of potential which can be exploited. And if they continue to train under expert coaches and get plenty of international exposure, they will surely bring laurels to the country in the future.

Madras — ROBIN PALARAMB

UNFAIR COMPARISON

In Indianotes ("Ribald Ritual", April 15), the name of Osho has been unnecessarily dragged in to make a point about a vulgar singing ritual in a Kerala temple. This primitive ritual has nothing to do with Osho's vision. He teaches the release and expression of passion but only within a meditative context. Earlier also, in the same column Osho is compared to a politician advocating indiscriminate sex ("Love Parks", February 28). This kind of crude attitude towards sexuality has nothing to do with Osho.

Pune — MA YOGA NEELAM

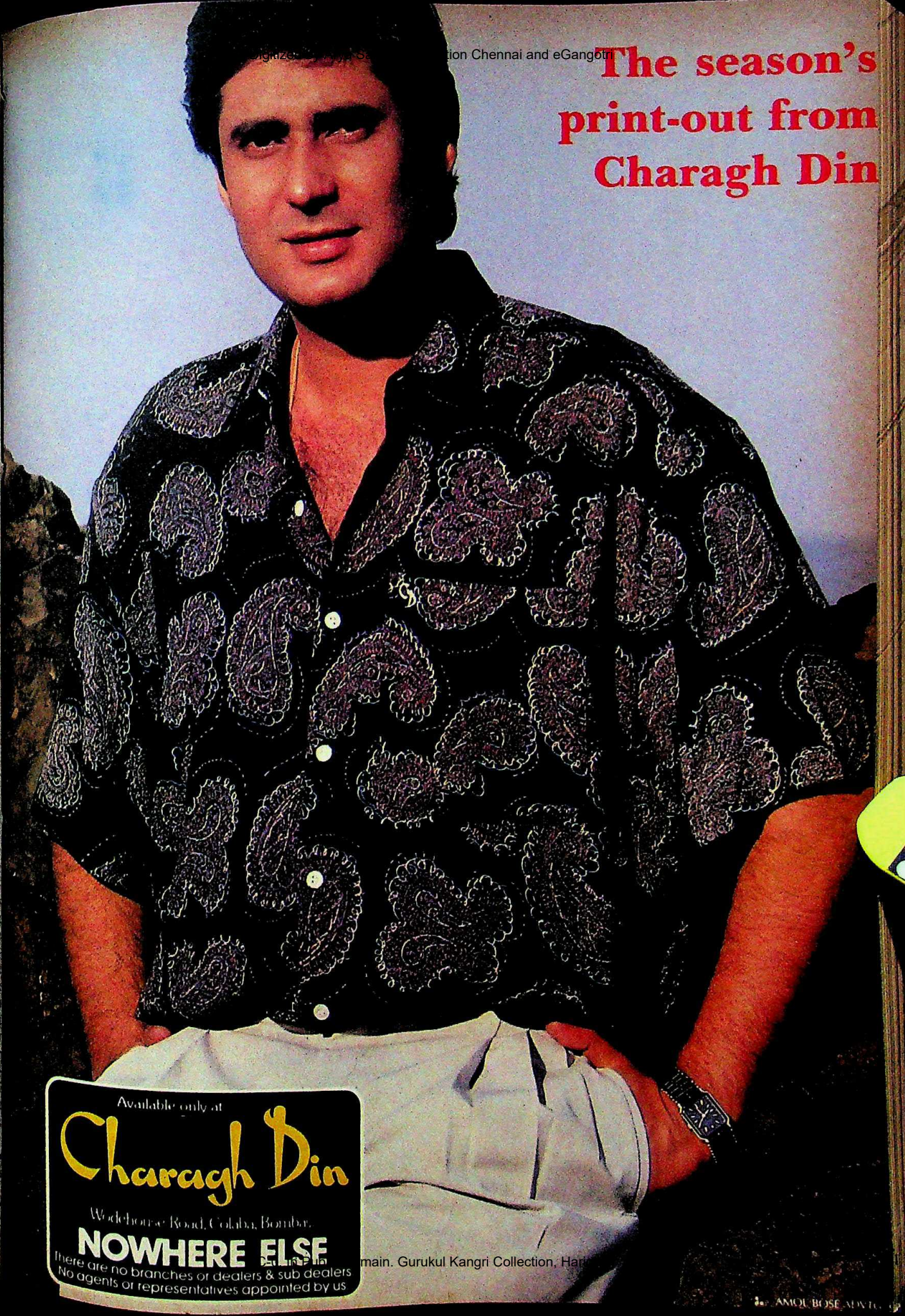
TIME FOR TIME-SHARING

Your story on time-sharing holiday resorts ("Wrong Time", October 15, 1989) has caused unnecessary panic among the public and untold damage to the reputations of spirited pioneers like us. To arrive at value judgements that time-sharing has not succeeded, is going too far considering the superficial nature of the story. By not attaching respective companies' names to the statements, the story has created a great deal of apprehension in the market. The author has kept his nose clean by not mentioning which Indian resort is tying up with an international chain, giving the impression that the plan has not come off. The statements that Dalmias and Sterling are using half of their resort space as a hotel is again a shallow understanding and shows scant respect for truth. Surely Dalmia does not expect to break even in the next two years, for how many companies have a 'zero gestation period'? Also, when one buys an apartment, one doesn't expect the associated services to come free.

New Delhi — B.V.S.A.N. MURTHY
Director, Dalmia Resorts

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

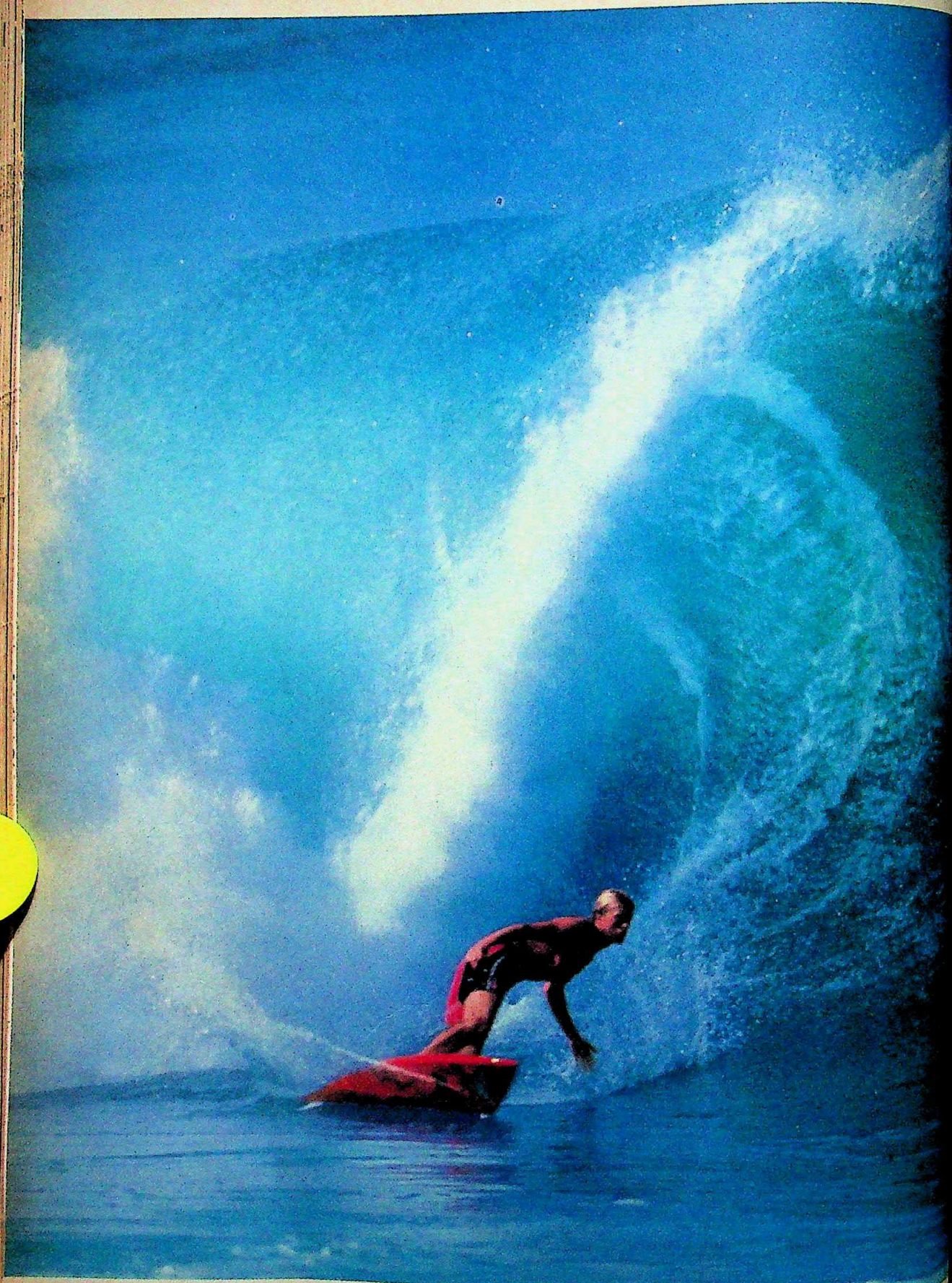
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

The wave of mergers, acquisitions and take overs is hurtling towards

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



For more details, please contact : BOMBAY : 314 D.N. Road, Fort, Bombay 400 001. Tel: 204521 ● CALCUTTA : Hongkong House, 31 BBD Bagh, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta
Tel: 286797 ● NEW DELHI : 4/F BMC House, N. Block, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: 3312068 ● MADRAS : 30 Rajaji Salai, Madras 600 001. Tel: 514001.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

...urtling towards India's industrial shores...

Are you prepared to ride the crest?

Industry the world over has witnessed a sea change. Leveraged Buy Outs. Conglomerates. Mega-mergers. The frenetic pace of activity has already engulfed the Western markets. Now it's hurtling towards India... Swim. Or sink!

But you belong to the new breed of fiercely competitive entrepreneurs. Bold, perceptive, dynamic. You need a bank that shares your aggressive spirit — HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division.

We're totally at home in the Indian market. Identifying opportunities for mergers, acquisitions and take overs. Undertaking careful evaluations. Co-ordinating the work of accountants, solicitors and other professional experts. Providing advice on financial implications, and much more.

On the international front, very few banks can match our expertise. We're part of the HongkongBank group — one of the largest banking groups in the world. With 1,300 offices in 50 countries, linked by a global communications system. For fast decisions. Worldwide.

Indeed, if you're willing to ride the crest of the advancing wave, call HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division. The bank with local insight and global outlook.

HongkongBank

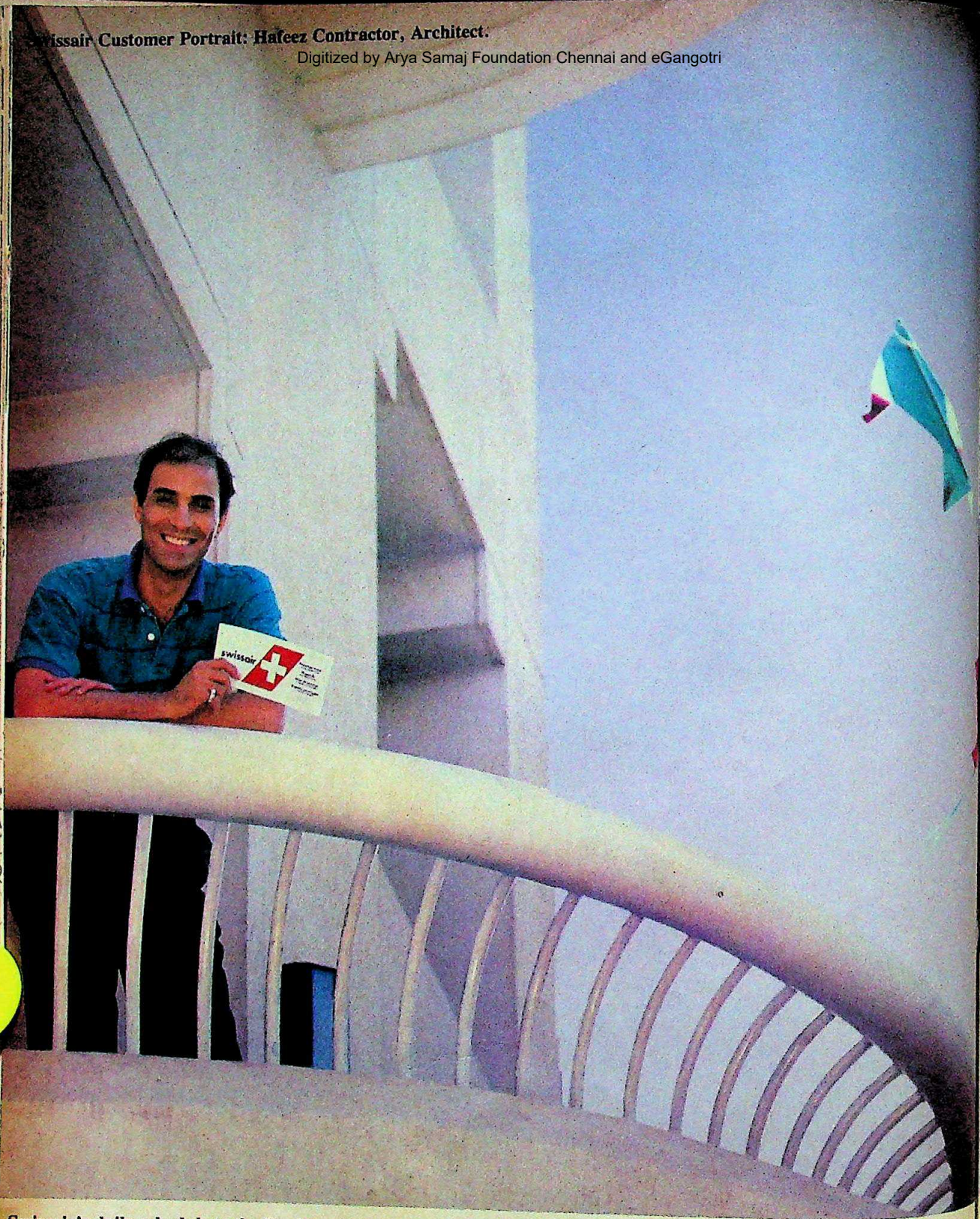
Merchant Banking Division

Joint Ventures • Foreign Collaborations
Mergers, Acquisitions, Take Overs • Feasibility Studies
Funds from Capital Markets • Leasing • Export Finance
Swaps and Options • Trade Financing
Euro Currency Facilities • Corporate Counselling

For businessmen on the move.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Swissair Customer Portrait: Hafeez Contractor, Architect.
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Swissair's daily schedule to the Far East is Hafeez Contractor's blueprint for a bon voyage. Hafeez brings to his creatio a rare precision, dependability and indulgence. The very hallmark of Swissair, that is quite naturally his choice of flig So whenever Hafeez looks eastwards, Swissair is a daily sight. From Bombay to Singapore, Hong Kong, Seoul, Jakar and Bangkok. Our luxurious First, comfortable Business and attractively priced Economy Class, are as enjoyable as o hospitality and service. Now take a tip from Hafeez and discover the best view of the exotic East from Swissair's windows.

For details call your IATA travel agent or the nearest Swissair office:
AHMEDABAD 449149 • BANGALORE 211983 • BOMBAY 2872210 • CALCUTTA 444643 • COCHIN 360380 • DELHI 332651 • HYDERABAD 211144 • KATHMANDU 222452 • MADRAS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

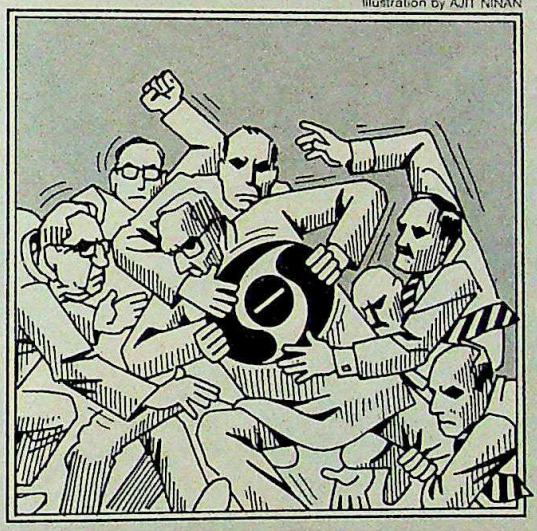
Theatre of the Absurd

DOORDARSHAN continues to defy the time-tested dictum that all things get better by the morning. India's state controlled television network simply plummets down mediocrity lane unmindful, even aggressively disdainful of the universal cries for change. Sloppy programming and antediluvian presentations continue to buffet and insult the intelligence of the captive audience.

The fresh breezes that were supposed to sweep across television's wasteland following the National Front Government's public commitment to autonomy, simply refuse to blow. They have been thwarted by mountain ranges of politics, barricades of bureaucracy and barriers of indecision—the stumbling blocks of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government. It started out with an electoral commitment to autonomy. All seemed to be going well when, after coming to power, it quickly drafted a proposal, a blueprint for legislation. But like Sisyphus pushing that gigantic rock uphill, the Government seems to take two steps backward with every forward movement.

The real dilemma is not any real opposition from the Opposition. Actually, the initial opposition has come from within the ruling party itself, from no less a person than the powerful Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. At a recent cabinet meeting he roared his disapproval for autonomy arguing that since most of the Indian press was in the hands of hostile capitalists, Doordarshan should continue as a government instrument designed to project the Government's image and achievements.

Illustration by AJIT NINAN



The situation cannot be salvaged easily without decisive action from the top—from the prime minister. But V.P. Singh is the captive of his own image and pronouncements. He refuses to act directly because he champions the cause of non-interference. And since the minister in charge is not known for taking firm decisions, the running and reforming of Doordarshan lies stalemated in the arms of the bureaucracy.

And the dilly-dallying over what to do with the Government's electronic media is nothing short of a public embarrassment. First, the Information and Broadcasting Minister P. Upendra announces that a five-member interim board would be appointed to run Doordarshan pending passage of the autonomy bill. A small beginning, but a step in the right direction. But the exercise was hamstrung when the Left and the BJP began to canvass for their own candidates. Characteristically, the prime minister took the soft option: the committee was simply not appointed.

Then came another intermediary step that proved to be a non-starter. Upendra announced that at least in the area of entertainment programming he would appoint a board of journalists to review and approve new serials. But here, too, politics had its way with different people pulling in different directions amid charges of bias and favouritism.

In the process, Upendra again finds himself in a state of helplessness. Bureaucracy loves a vacuum. In the absence of any clear direction from the Government the bureaucrats have tightened their grip over the institution. The threat of autonomy to the bureaucratic monopoly seems to have evaporated. Some Rs 50 crore still remain at the bureaucrats' disposal. And the airwaves are being hogged by programmes that are both juvenile and jejune.

AND some of these independent programmes have reached a level of the visually absurd. As witness, for example, is a recent current events programme, obviously shot many moons ago in winter, in which the participants discussing the current topic are wearing polo-neck sweaters and three-piece suits. It is also becoming obvious that some 40 journalists who underwent rigorous training over the last two years are languishing, as is most of the multi-core high-tech equipment in its production lab. And the charges are flying again that Doordarshan has become a den of favouritism.

Even the minister in charge has been heard complaining that if he tries to take action he is accused of interference and reminded that his government is pledged to autonomy. The Government finds itself hoist on its own petard by vested bureaucratic interests.

It is imperative for the Government to define its path and to act upon the pledge it has made to the nation. The bottom line, as the prime minister himself advocates, is that the airwaves belong to the public and should not be allowed to become the private propaganda vehicle of the Government or any other partisan group. This is the undergirding principle of autonomy. There can be no half-way measures. After enacting strong and enforceable guidelines for standards, fairness, and equal time for the airing of all sides of controversial viewpoints, the Government must simply get its sticky fingers out of not just Doordarshan but also All India Radio (AIR).

No right-thinking person will object to essential safeguards such as the prohibition of inflammatory or communal propaganda, ensuring high-quality programming aimed at children, restrictions on obscenity. But there the Government's role must end. And if the Government is serious about its commitment to freedom of information it should start looking beyond autonomy. It should seriously consider opening up second broadcast channels for Doordarshan and AIR to private companies for the production of entertainment, public affairs and current events programmes. And let them give Doordarshan a run for its money. Nothing succeeds better against mediocrity and monopoly than a stiff dose of old-fashioned competition.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THOSE WERE THE TIMES

FOR LONG CHATS AND MEANINGFUL GLANCES

DAYS WHEN LIFE WAS UNHURRIED

AND LIVING WAS GRACIOUS

FOR LADIES

• *The Benaras, Satya Paul, The Indus & Neo-Classique: SARIÉS*

• *Kin Khaab: SILKS* • *Rabia: DRESS FABRICS* • *Florence & Autumn Leaf: SUITS*

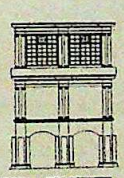
• *Symphony: MIX & MATCH* • *Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Cashmere: SHAWLS*

Satish Sud Graphics/2

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HANDLOOM EMPORIUM RECREATES
THE BYGONE ERA OF LEISURED LIVING
IN ITS REDESIGNED SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT WITH
THE FINEST LINE OF MERCHANDISING
IN FABRICS, SARIÉS AND READY TO WEAR CLOTHES
DESIGNED & PRODUCED
BY THE MOST REPUTED NAMES
IN THE COUNTRY
TO THE EXACTING STANDARDS OF
HERITAGE



HERITAGE™
AT
handloom emporium

G-XII HANDLOOM EMPORIUM MANOR
SHOPPING PLAZA SOUTH EXTENSION-I NEW DELHI-110 049 INDIA
TLFN: (011) 62-3208, 61-7050, 62-5099

FOR GENTS

• *Van Gogh: SUITINGS* • *Michelangelo: READYMADES* • *Here & Now: ACCESSORIES*
• *Cézanne: JACKETS & TROUSERS* • *Exclusif Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Marcopolo: GIFTABLES*

FOR CHILDREN

• *Roots: READY TO WEAR*

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Tightrope Talker

● The prime minister is not the only politician these days doing the balancing act and constantly searching for consensus. Recently, Industry Minister Ajit Singh found

himself having to manage a delicate tight-rope situation, though of a somewhat different nature.

At an official dinner, this time for the visiting Japanese prime minister, Singh found himself seated between two elegant ladies—Sita Devi, Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh's wife, and former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi's wife, Sonia.

This indeed proved to be a precarious perch. For gentleman that he is, Ajit Singh could not possibly give the impression that he was ignoring one at the expense of the other. At the same time, nor could he just sit mum and convey the impression of being rude.

So he went about the balancing act with panache. He chit-chatted, the operating principle being equal time for both. It was easier to make light conversation with Sonia, since both have schoolgoing children and all parents have similar problems. But Sita Devi's children are now grown and the topics of discussion remained general.

Protocol apart, Singh succeeded in one other area: keeping politics out.

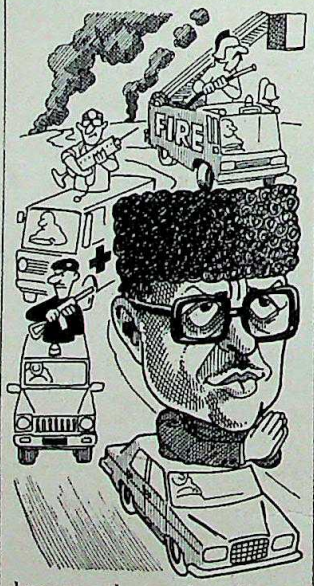
Fire Fighters

● The capital's summer has not just started hot, but fiery hot. Literally. It began with Vigyan Bhawan, the five-star VIP conferencing facility's infernal destruction followed by blazes in markets and slums. Where will the next fire strike?

At least the prime minister's securitymen are taking no chances on that. On any given day, the nation's chief executive visits no less than half a dozen locations within Delhi for confabs and political meetings. And if the stately Vigyan Bhawan was not safe, then so is no other building.

Consequently, starting last fortnight, there's now a brand new addition to the prime minister's motorcade: behind the security vehicles, and the ambulance, now

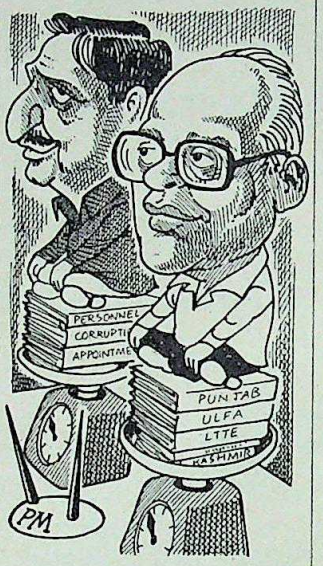
Cartoons by AJIT NINAN



bounces along a brand new fire engine.

Reining in Pande

● No sooner did the shabbily-dressed Vinod Pande, astrologer and diehard V.P. Singh loyalist get the job of cabinet secretary than speculation started about how long the



suave B.G. Deshmukh would last as principal secretary to the prime minister. Pande, observers said, would informally hog Deshmukh's functions.

They were not too far off the mark because Pande had increasingly started to step on the cabinet secretary's turf by dealing with crisis areas such as Kashmir and Punjab. But V.P. Singh has decided to rein Pande in a little and so defined territories more distinctly. Deshmukh will now exclusively handle the crisis areas as well as the ULFA agitation in Assam and the residual problems created by the LTTE in Tamil Nadu. Pande will continue to be in charge of personnel changes, the Government's anti-corruption drive and, of course, ensuring that the top rungs of the bureaucracy are manned by the Raja's loyalists.

Eating Elite

● If you think just because Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh wears a crazy fur cap in summer, and his deputy Devi Lal waxes evangelical about spreading the rural Jat way of life, and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav wants to kick English back into Empire, the National Front Government has ushered in the bumpkin culture, you've got another thing coming.

Consider, for example, the lavish menu at the Prime Minister V.P. Singh's private dinner for Commonwealth Secretary-General Sridath Ramphal: sauted lamb chops in herb sauce; almond broccoli; baked potatoes; sweet corn fritters; tossed salad; and the *piece de resistance*:

vanilla ice-cream with hot chocolate sauce.

And there was a lot more. Adding frills to the proceedings were gloved waitresses in attendance behind each of the 21 chairs. And if you're guessing about who came to dinner, the list of invitees included, well, five-star Jats like Ajit Singh, as well as the more earthy Devi Lal culture buffs like Sharad Yadav.

TAIL PIECE

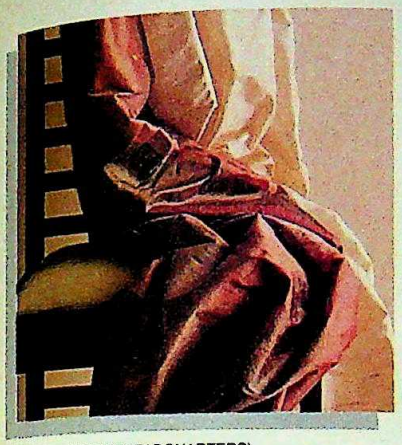
(Overheard)

Ramakrishna Hegde: You now have a cabinet minister on top of you.
Maneka: I'll just eat him up.
Hegde: You can't, you're a vegetarian.
Maneka: Yes. But he's a vegetable.

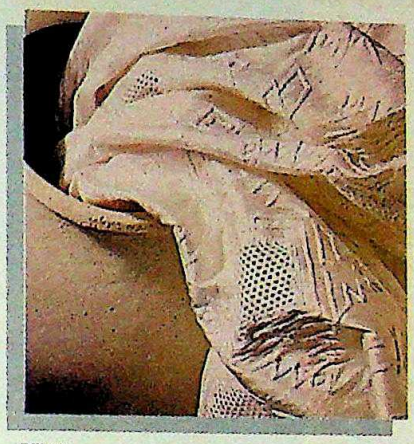
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Anywhere in the world there's no place like Shyam Ahuja.

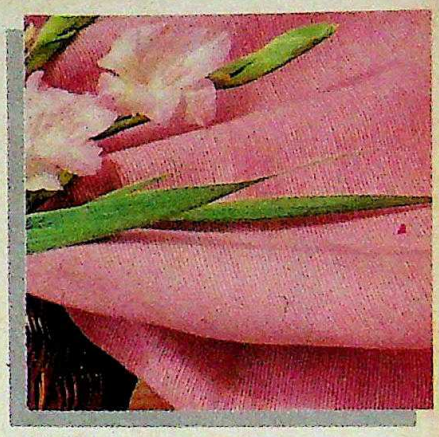
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



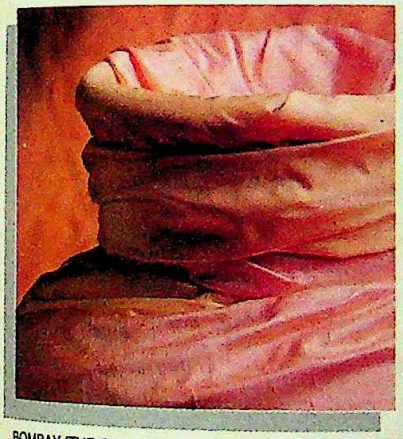
BOMBAY (WORLD HEADQUARTERS)
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
33/34, DR. A.B. ROAD,
WORLI, BOMBAY 400 018.
TEL: 4938030/31/32
FAX: 91 22 494 0502



DELHI
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
3, LOCAL SHOPPING COMPLEX,
BLOCK E, NEAR SAVITRI CINEMA,
G.K. II, NEW DELHI 110 048.
TEL: 6434531/6440646/6467274

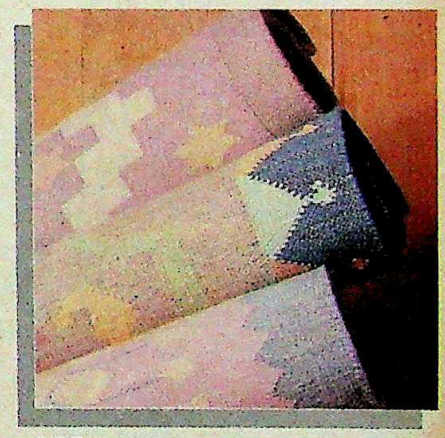


MADRAS
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
CHAITANYA B/12,
KHADERNAWAZ KHAN ROAD,
NEAR TAJ COROMANDEL HOTEL,
MADRAS 600 006. TEL: 8252742/8252743



BOMBAY (THE OBEROI)
SHYAM AHUJA
THE OBEROI, SHOPPING ARCADE,
TEL: 2024723 EXTN: 6828/29
BOMBAY (JUHU)
TEL: 6151749/6152140

BANGALORE
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
67/8 LAVELLE ROAD,
4TH CROSS,
BANGALORE 560 001.
TEL: 216397



JAIPUR
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
3, BHAWANI SINGH ROAD,
NEAR RAM BAGH PALACE HOTEL,
JAIPUR 302 005.
TEL: 64488

PARIS
SHYAM AHUJA
5, PASSAGE DE LA PETITE
BOUCHERIE, 26 RUE DE
L'ECHAUDE, 75006 PARIS.
TEL: 1-43 26 20 46

NEW YORK
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
201, EAST 56TH STREET,
NEW YORK, N.Y. 10022.
TEL: 212-644 5910
FAX: 212 644 5787

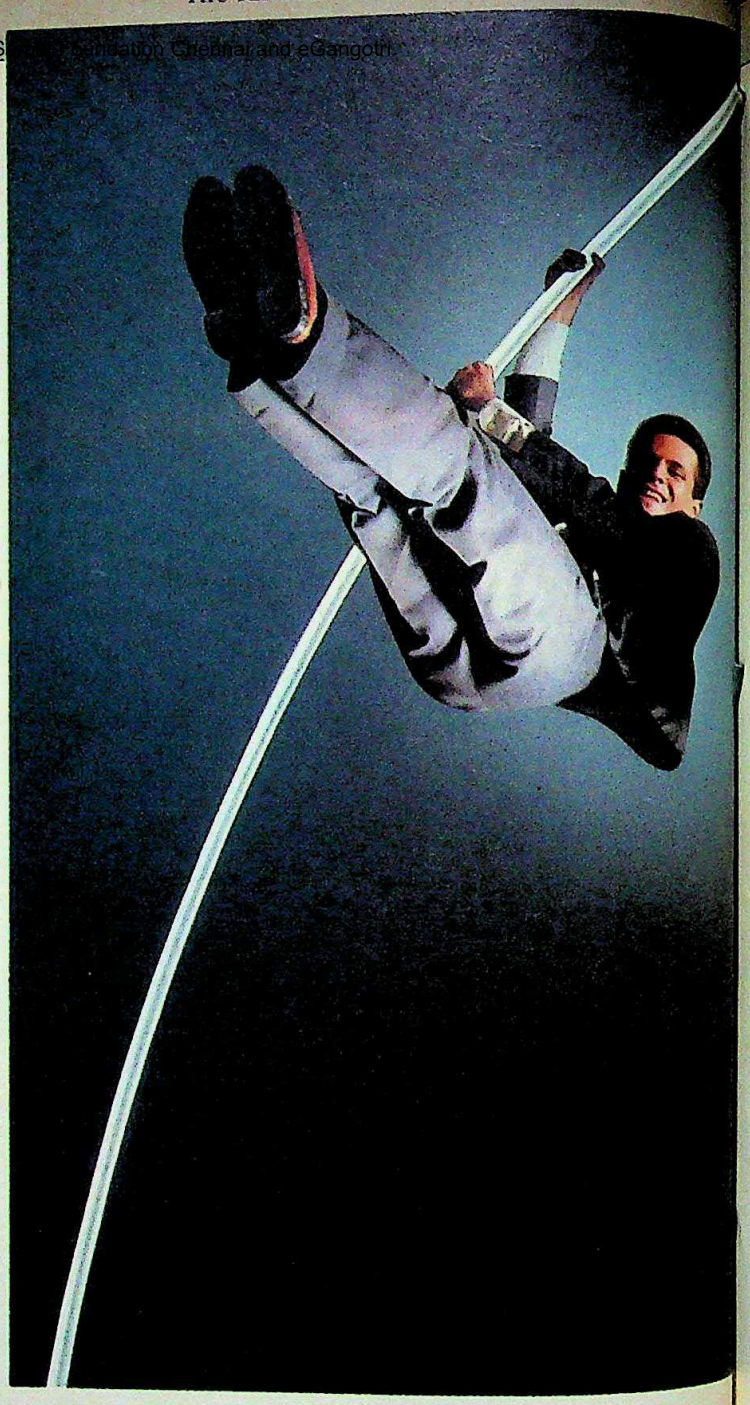
BOSTON
SHYAM AHUJA LTD.
ONE DESIGN CENTER PLACE, SUITE 548,
BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS 02210.
TEL: 617-439 0113
FAX: 617 439 0115

SHYAM AHUJA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE REWARD, MY FRIEND, IS NOT IN THE SIZE OF THE ORDER BUT IN THE CHALLENGE OF THE JOB.



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Profits, Kirloskar Electric never forgets, are not the primary function of any business. They are a by-product. Go out on a limb for your customers and you not only build technological muscle,the whole country gains confidence to take on more and more challenging jobs. And the odd thing is, if you look after the product, the profits take care of themselves.

Take the case of the AC motorised gear units we designed and custom-built from scratch for Laxmi Machine Works (LMW).

LMW are one of India's leading manufacturers of textile machinery. In 1983, they asked us to build AC dual speed motorised gear units for their doffer machines, most of which are exported. So far they had been importing these motors from Bauer of Germany.

Import substitution is one of the biggest bees in our bonnet. But these were not your run-of-the mill motorised gear units. Some of the specs were daunting and the client's expectations very high. Besides, these units had never been made in India.

The tougher the job, the more we want to do it. We got down to business. When we had got the prototype for the motorised gear units ready, we realized that it could be made even more compact. We re-worked on the prototype till its compactness was as close to the imported ones as possible.

But it was the gear cases which posed the biggest problem for us. Being so compact, they demanded maximum accuracies. It was touch and go there for a while but we licked the problem in the end.

Today on an average 400 of these motorised gear units are used by LMW both for export and for the home market on their doffer machines. They save about Rs. 30 lakhs on foreign exchange a year for the country.

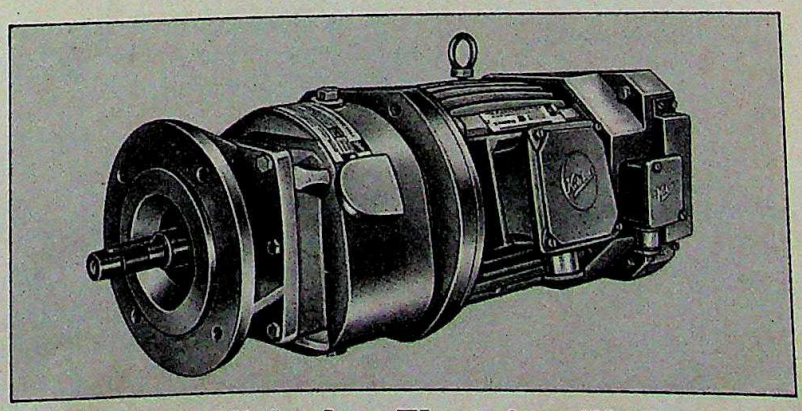
But we didn't stop at that. We designed and custom-built motors for dust-collecting equipment for a sister-concern of LMW called Laxmi Automatic Looms. These motors replaced imported ones and saved another Rs. 30 lakhs in foreign currency.

But Kirloskar Electric is more than the sum of all the firsts it has earned over the years. We are India's leading industrial electrics and electronics company in the private sector. We make some of the finest standard AC and DC drives, transformers, welding equipment and systems, motorised gear units, equipment for defence, electronic control equipment, CNCs, etc. But the one single reason why we are the prime movers in our field is because the centre of gravity at Kirloskar Electric is the customer. Our hi-tech, engineering expertise, superior quality and reliability are all geared to anticipate and respond to his needs.

KIRLOSKAR ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICS AND ELECTRONICS

Regd. Office : Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.



When nobody else can do the job, Kirloskar Electric will.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ABU DHABI · AL-FUJAIRAH · AMMAN · ATHENS · BAGHDAD · BAHRAIN · BANGKOK · BOMBAY · CAIRO · COLOMBO

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WE'RE FLYING NEW COLOURS

This year we'll be turning heads all over the world with our new uniforms.

A new set of clothes may seem like a surface improvement. But we're very fortunate in that, with our crew, that's really all we needed!

طيران الخليج
GULF AIR
GOLDEN FALCON SERVICE

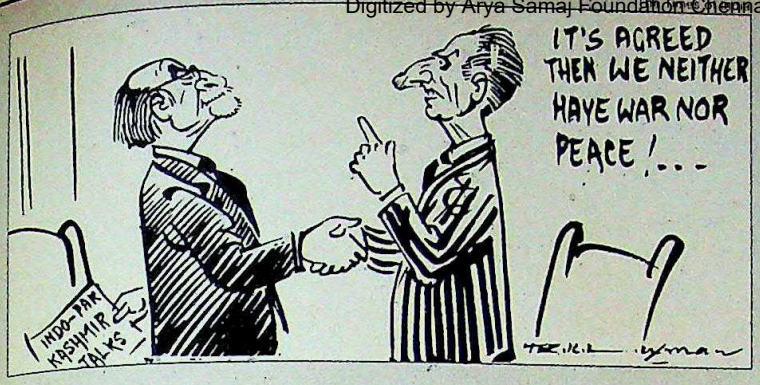
A TRULY CIVILISED WAY TO FLY.

dacunha GA 1 90

SHIRAZ · SHARJAH · SANAA · SALALAH · RIYADH · RAS AL KHAIMAH · PARIS · NAIROBI · MUSCAT · MANILA · LONDON · KUWAIT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



• *We are not interested in including anybody (in the Cabinet) who was rejected by the electorate.* ■ V.P. SINGH

• *Is my election by the state Assembly of Bengal to the Rajya Sabha by the largest number of votes without any significance? Is it entry by the back door? Is Rajya Sabha election valueless?* ■ ASOKE SEN in a letter to V.P. Singh

• *I am happy you overcame your morning sickness on Mondays. I wish you good health.* ■ VASANT SATHE to V.P. Singh in the Lok Sabha

• *It is good to have the strength of a giant but it is bad to use it like one.* ■ RAJA RAMANNA, minister of state for defence

• *They (the Nepali Congress leaders) will now soon be known as the rajas, and all the rajas are against me.* ■ CHANDRA SHEKHAR in *The Independent*

• *We can't be complacent just because we won a few elections and are in power in two states. If we do that we won't remain in power for long.* ■ JYOTI BASU in *The Telegraph*

• *A person who says that he would raise the demand for a plebiscite in Punjab at the UN is not fit for Parliament but only for a lunatic asylum.* ■ SWAMI AGNIVESH, reacting to Akali Dal (Mann) President Simranjit Singh Mann's statement

• *A man who does not have thousands of enemies, I don't consider him to be a man. A man whose name does not make some people squirm at nights, his life has no meaning. His coming into this world is purposeless.* ■ OM PRAKASH CHAUTALA in *Newstrack*

• *I am committed to the family (Nehru-Gandhi) and my unflinching loyalty and devotion is a matter of record. If I have a chance, I will serve Rahul Gandhi.* ■ R.K. DHAWAN in *The Illustrated Weekly of India*

• *We have a Nehru port here, Indira docks, Sanjay Gandhi park, now only Rahul and Priyanka are left.* ■ DHARAMCHAND CHORIDA, Maharashtra BJP general secretary, protesting against renaming Sahar Airport after Jawaharlal Nehru

• *Indian cricket has improved in the last couple of years. I cannot recollect ever, in my two phases as a national selector, such a healthy crop of young cricketers.* ■ RAJ SINGH DUNGARPUR, chairman, selection committee

• *I confess I don't know acting. I know only emoting.* ■ SALMAN KHAN

• *Together, we were a complete disaster...Our marriage was a failure from day one.* ■ DIMPLE KAPADIA to Rajesh Khanna in *Stardust*

INDIA TODAY
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

GIFT INDIA TO SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

GIFT FOR _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
CITY _____ CODE _____
COUNTRY _____

Please send one year's subscription of *INDIA TODAY*, International Edition and my gift card to the person named above. Enclosed is my cheque*/DD*/(add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques, ie. outside Delhi) for Rs._____

payable to Living Media India Ltd.

MY NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
_____

Send this advertisement and payment to:
Living Media India Ltd.
P.B. No. 706,
Faridabad 121 007

Annual Airmail Subscription Rates

Rs. 365 BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, NEPAL

Rs. 850 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES

*Cheques/Bank Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WORKERS' WOES

■ The more novel the method of protest, the greater the attention it is likely to attract. Having learnt this lesson well, some railway workers attached to the Southern Railway Mazdoor Union, came up with an unusual protest demonstration at Tiruchi in Tamil Nadu.

They collected in front of the divisional railway headquarters along with some cows and goats and then proceeded to feed and wash the animals.

As officials gaped at the comic sight, it took some time for the workers' message to sink in. It turned out that the demonstration was directed against them—or more precisely against the household chores which the railway officials made the workers do in addition to, or in place of, their official duties.

Whether the workers' effort hits the bull's eye remains to be seen. For many of them insist that the railway babus are as thick-skinned as the cows and goats used in the demonstration.

SWEET REVENGE

■ Intimidation of invigilators has long been a common practice, the preferred means being a knife threateningly stuck into a desk, while the local goons cheated their way through school and college. But times have changed. And so have the tactics to deal with invigilators.

Recently, a group of high school students in Gwalior were thrown out for large-scale copying. Instead of strong-arm tactics they got their own back by resorting to methods that were—literally—sweeter. They bought *laddoos*, laced them with a purgative, and offered the sweets to the invigilators claiming it was *prasad*.

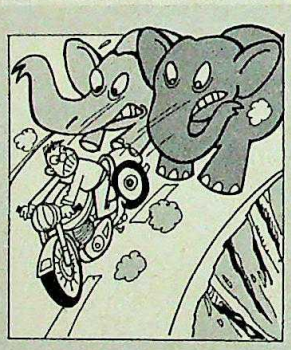
Within minutes the scene changed to one straight out of a slapstick comedy film. The staff members made a beeline for the toilets clutching their stomachs. The students too were clutching their sides—bent double in laughter.

Hopefully, the sight purged the students of any further desire for revenge.

ELEPHANT CHASE

■ Dogs chasing motorcycles is a fairly common occurrence. But in the Sultan's Battery-Pulppally road in the hilly Wynad district of north Kerala, bike riders find themselves chased by much bigger—and more dangerous—mammals.

Just ride a roaring motorbike through the road at dusk and when you've covered about four miles, look backwards. A terrifying sight will greet you: two elephants, getting ready to charge at your motorcycle.



But don't get paralysed with fear for only a full throttle dash can save you from the Jumbo duo—who apparently can't stand the thundering sound of motorcycles.

Still, be careful as you make your getaway, for the meandering road is lined by deep ravines on one side and dense forests on the other.

That isn't much of a choice really, and taking a cue from Hobson, wags are calling it Pulppally's choice—between the elephants and the deep brown valley.

VENOM VS WEIGHT

■ The banded krait, herpetologists say, is the most poisonous snake in India, several times more venomous than the cobra. Worse, since the nearest source of anti-venom is in distant Thailand, a bite by a banded krait means a certain invitation for the undertaker.

So it must have been a pretty confident banded krait that slithered into the bed of a sleeping man in Madras recently. Only, as it turned out, the snake was a trifle slow. Just as it was getting ready to strike, the man rolled over with a grunt and crushed the reptile under his weight.

Next morning, when the man woke up and saw the banded krait, he nearly died of fright. But a few minutes at the nearby hospital, and it became clear that no serious damage had been done. To the man, that is.

The moral of the story is strictly for snakes: let sleeping men lie.

DOWRY DUEL

■ Here's some food for thought for women's organisations. Recently, in Khurja near Delhi, members of a community were up in arms against having to pay dowry.

But their reasons weren't particularly feminist as they weren't objecting to dowry in principle. What incensed them was the fact that a member of their community was willing to give a scooter in his daughter's dowry. This they reasoned, would hike the going dowry rate.

As they began fighting with the man who wished to up the dowry rate, the *baraatis* arrived. There was no one to welcome them as all were arguing about the scooter. The *baraatis* had no choice but to fend for themselves. So they picked up the *belans* and—no, they didn't fling them at the squabbling family—began cooking their own rotis.

News of whether the dispute was settled is awaited.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Favourites Worldwide!

Friedrich Grohe, West Germany. Pioneers in tap technology and largest sellers of single lever mixers in 100 countries over fifty years.

Gem. Twenty years of excellence in bathroom fittings.

Now, in collaboration, they bring you Gem Friedrich Grohe single lever mixers. With an original imported ceramic disc. Ensuring years of snag–free operation. Smooth. Convenient. Elegant finishes. Designer colours. International good looks. For bathrooms and kitchens. Exposed and concealed installations.

The choice of discerning buyers all over the world.

GEM
FRIEDRICH GROHE

Gem Sanitary Appliances Pvt. Ltd.
A-57, Wazirpur Industrial Area, Delhi-110 052
Tel : 7127655. Tlx : 031-77287 GEM IN

THE EDGE/D90/GEM/187

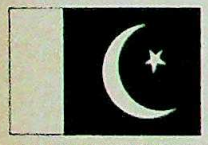
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ANIS HAMDANI

BENAZIR BHUTTO

PLAYING WITH FIRE



BY the standards of Pakistani politics, it was an extremely small rally. A few thousand people under a shamiana, sweltering in the heat at Mankiala, 30 km from Islamabad on the Potohar plateau, to see Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto inaugurate a steel depot. Obviously brought by the ruling Pakistan People's Party (PPP) for the occasion, the crowd displayed little interest in Benazir's long sermon on the need for self-reliance. Then she mentioned Kashmir.

There was no fire and brimstone of the kind she displayed in Muzaffarabad, Lahore or Larkana in March. Just a ritual reference: "We support the Kashmiri call for self-determination. We will give them all moral and political support." The crowd came alive. "*Leke rahegi* Kashmir" (she will not rest till she takes Kashmir), shouted the PPP front-benchers. "Benazir, Benazir," responded the crowds. The prime minister drove away from the meeting triumphant, but perhaps also a bit apprehensive. For the new phase in her nation's politics may have brought her career to an unprecedented high, but it has also brought it closer to danger than ever since her installation in power in December 1988. It is at a high because by being first off the mark on Kashmir and the shrillest in rhetoric she has beaten the Opposition almost decisively, causing dissension in their ranks. She has also earned a reprieve in Sind where the situation was so bad it was feared the army might take over. And dangerous because, given the way power is shared in Pakistan today, she will need all her skills and a lot of luck to prevent her new-found power from being grabbed by her old *bete noires*, the army and the clergy.

Long accused of relying on populistic instinct rather than shrewd political thinking, for once Benazir had played her cards right. And the card she chose was Kashmir, which has re-emerged as a major emotional issue in Pakistan *(see accompanying story)*. While her main opponent, Punjab Chief Minister Nawaz Sharif was still criticising her for doing nothing about Kashmir, she surprised everyone by unleashing an unprecedented campaign on the issue. On her maiden visit to Muzaffarabad, the capital of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir (POK), she drew loud cheers by threatening to turn Jagmohan into Bhag-Mohan. In Lahore a week later, she echoed the Kashmiri war cry of "*azadi, azadi*" before a lakh-strong crowd. "You could easily call her effort one better on Rajiv Gandhi's *nani yaad dila denge* speech," said an Islamabad-based diplomat. He added: "The difference is she had a receptive audience."

The campaign culminated with another speech in her hometown of Larkana where she referred to her late father's oft-quoted threat to fight India for a thousand years on Kashmir. Soon the Opposition was scratching about to see what remained to be said on Kashmir that she hadn't said already. India's angry re-

Photographs by PP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Benazir (left); and defaced Indian flag: upping the ante

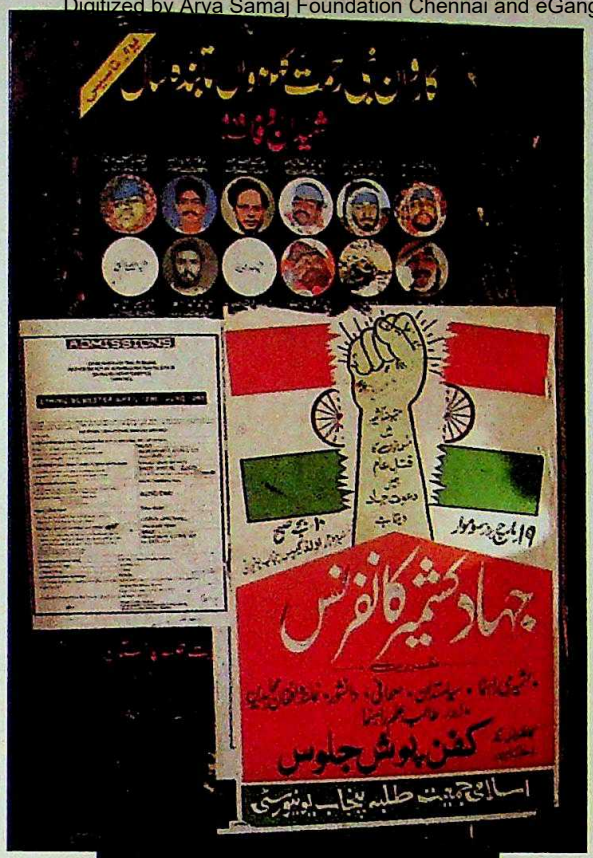
sponse quickly brought in US intervention and as diplomats sought to cool the rhetoric there was nothing the Opposition could do to retrieve their positions. So confused was it that in the North Western Frontier Province, where the Islami Jamoori Itehad (IJI) has been trying to give one last, decisive push to a tottering PPP Government, its local leaders decided to support the ruling party. And Sharif declared there was no difference between his policy on Kashmir and Benazir's. "Whatever be the long-term consequences of her tactics, today the reality is that she has completely outmanoeuvred the Opposition," conceded a senior IJI leader. Said another senior politician: "Kashmir has come to her rescue just as Afghanistan did for Zia."

The PPP drove home the advantage. The campaign gave the PPP at least a chance of performing creditably in the forthcoming elections to the "Azad Kashmir Assembly", against the Muslim Conference Government of Sardar Qayoom. *"Kashmir kee taqdeeer, Benazir, Benazir"* (Kashmir's future is Benazir), screamed PPP election banners in POK. Even her critics admitted she'd played the Kashmir card with skill leaving her more secure in the Centre, in Sind, and in the Frontier. If in the bargain she brought the subcontinent close to war, her supporters said it was a calculated risk worth taking.

But she did not achieve this alone. In an ironic realignment of forces, she has been backed by the army which could barely stand her a few months ago. The war threat has enabled the army to jump into the political fray again. "If some political stability is visible it is because the army has told the politicians they can't be allowed to go on feuding while India is knocking at our borders," says well-known commentator Maleeha Lodhi.

That the politicians have heeded is obvious. In Karachi, the rebellious Mohajir Quami Mahaz (MQM) and the PPP, whose feud has consumed 376 lives in Sind in the first four months of the year, are engaged in negotiations. Nationally too, Nawaz Sharif's IJI and the PPP are moving towards reconciliation. So great is the confusion in the Opposition that a large number of dissidents, led by Syeda Abida Hussain, a National Assembly member, are planning to launch a new, "real" opposition party. "Some people may have conceded defeat to *mohtarma* (the lady). I haven't," declares Abida.

The clearest message of the recent events is that in Pakistan's fledgling



Benazir has played the Kashmir card well. But if the outcome is war, it'll be the end of her career and of democracy.

Photographs by PRASHANT PANJIAR

Anti-India protests in Lahore

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

democracy no political party, old or new, can defy the army. As tension began to build in Kashmir, several generals openly suggested that martial law be imposed in the anarchic regions, particularly Sind. "The warning put the fear of god in the minds of the political leaders who preferred to listen to the generals than invite their wrath, particularly in a situation where the army may even have had popular support for action against politicians," said a western diplomat in Islamabad. In the process, however, the faint outlines of the democratic power structure of Pakistan were blurred further and Benazir had conceded ground to her army.

SOURCES close to her admitted that while savouring the defeat of her opponents she was also worried about the possible repercussions of her actions. "The rhetoric in the subcontinent has raised the political temperature. And such a momentum can suck everybody in, particularly a government and a country like ours where Kashmir is such an emotional issue," admitted one. Benazir's advisors also conceded she was worried about the possibility of war as, irrespective of the outcome, it could spell the end of her government and of democracy.

Either way a war will be a no-win situation for her. A defeat would be blamed on her and nobody would give her the credit for victory. Says a well-known Pakistani journalist: "The last two wars marked the end of dictatorships and brought in democracy. This one could spell the end of democracy."

While her strident approach and the army's intervention may have helped the mainline opposition fall into line, the heightened emotions *(see box)* have strenghtened right-wing religious parties and leaders, many of whom run private armies. Worse for her, many of these groups are the ones that functioned in close contact with the army and Inter Services Intelligence (ISI) in the Afghanistan campaign, like the Jamaat-e-Islami.

It is acknowledged among ruling circles that Quzi Hussain Ahmed, a Pathan, was catapulted to the position of the Jamaat's chief on the initiative of the ISI which wanted a frontier leader to run the Afghan campaign. Today he masterminds a not-so-covert operation on Kashmir from Mansura, the fortress-like Jamaat headquarters near Lahore.

The imposing walls of the Jamaat complex are smeared with slogans like *"Pakistan ek chand hai, Kashmir iska sitara"* (If Pakistan is the moon, Kashmir is its star). The Qazi, 52—young by Jamaat standards—denies he is giving any arms to the Kashmiris, but asserts that for any Muslims so close to Afghanistan arms should be no problem. "The Tashkent

Jehad fund collection camp in Lahore

By contributing in a major way to making Kashmir such a raging emotional fire, there is little Benazir can do to contain it now.

TANVIR AHMED KHAN

"I think war is avoidable"

OVER the past few months, since the Kashmir crisis came to the fore, Pakistan's relatively new Foreign Secretary, Tanvir Ahmed Khan, has emerged as the key figure in shaping the policy vis-a-vis Kashmir and India. A former university don who was invited by the late Zulfikar Ali Bhutto to join the foreign service, Khan has emerged as a mature diplomat respected within his own establishment and by his Indian counterparts. Last fortnight, he spoke to Features Editor SHEKHAR GUPTA *in Islamabad about the border tensions. Excerpts:*

On the war threat:

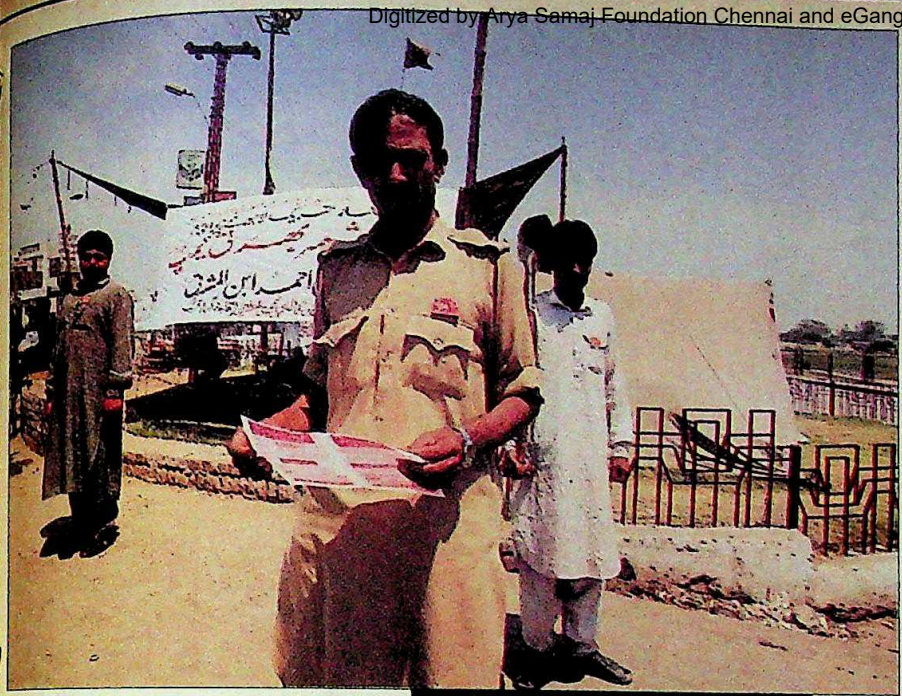
I won't say that war is imminent or inevitable, I would say it is avoidable. But from India's actions we feel that India wants to retain the option of war. I hope it does not act irrationally and convert one hot spot (Kashmir) into a major regional conflagration. And I hope there is no miscalculation in India that it will be an easy victory. For us it will be our last stand, a desperate battle. We have taken sufficient steps to ensure that nothing happens behind our backs.

On troop movements:

Your movements in Punjab are basically defensive. We can understand the moving in of new units in Kashmir because of the internal situation but you are also bringing in new paramilitary forces like the Assam Rifles. This means the regular army will be free for other things. Three-fourths of the Indian strike corps is arrayed in the Suratgarh area. The remaining units in the rear are in a high state of alert. You have moved up your engineering units, your petrol-and lubricant dumps. What does that indicate? In this time and age, given the

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Recruitment centre for mujahedin

accord put the Kashmir question in a coffin. The Simla accord hammered nails into it. Today the Kashmiris have broken out of it. They deserve support," he says and lambasts the Benazir Government for its "indifference". Though the Jamaat is officially a member of the IJI, on Kashmir it has decided to run its own campaign. It has already organised a jehad conference in Muzaffarabad, and plans to hold an international meet of Islamic clerics there. Given the Jamaat's links with the Kashmiri militants on one side and the ISI on the other, the nexus is transparent. And there is little Benazir can do to contain the campaign.

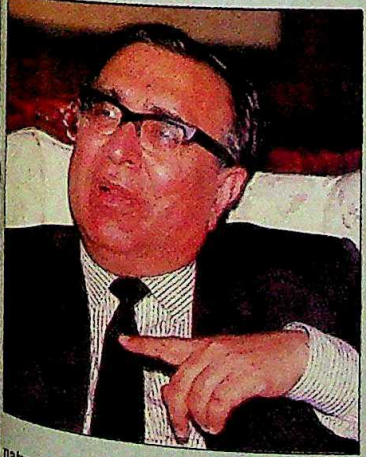
With its support for Kashmir 'azadi', any Pakistan government will now have a problem keeping the Kashmiris as closely in their fold.

HOW religious leaders are taking over the campaign is evident also in the rise of Tahirul Qadri, a well-known Islamic scholar, as perhaps the most significant politico-religious leader in Punjab. His new political party, Pakistan Awami Tehrik (PAT), is riding the Kashmir wave, organising jehad rallies. His media centre circulates video cassettes of the rallies, charged with *"Saathiyo, mujahido, jag utha hai saara watan,"* Noorjehan's patriotic song of the 1965 war.

What further chips at Benazir's short-term gains is that in Pakistan nothing anybody does on Kashmir would be considered satisfactory. So, though the Pakistani foreign office has done a good job of projecting their case, there is criticism that she has lost out to India in the initial rounds of the diplomatic battle. And comparisons are often drawn with Zia's success with the diplomatic drive on Afghanistan. Says Syed Fakhr Imam, former National Assembly speaker: "Here was an opportunity for us to embarrass India internationally. But look at how little she has delivered."

Stung, her government decided last fortnight to launch a massive international media and diplomatic campaign, sending delegations to world capitals, and inviting scholars and journalists to come and check out Kashmir for themselves. "We have a just and moral case and we are telling the whole world about it," said Iqbal Akhund, her advisor on national security and foreign affairs.

Having unleashed the free Kashmir campaign, Benazir or any Pakistani government will now have a problem keeping the Kashmiris as firmly in their fold. So far the Pakistanis have been seeking plebiscite in Kashmir, arguing that the 1948 UN resolutions contain only two options for the Kashmiris: to go with India or Pakistan. But a large section of the Kashmiri militants now want freedom from both—something Pakistan cannot accept. The question has cast its shadow over the "Azad Kashmir" election as well. While several Kashmiri candidates are



nature of the terrain and modern surveillance technologies, not even a bicycle can move on your side or ours without the other knowing.

Our troops have not moved out though India argues that they are located close to the borders. All we have done so far is inspect defence works, some reconnaissance. But I don't know how long we can avoid the dynamics of an eyeball to eyeball confrontation. This is what brought us within an ace of a shooting match in 1987.

India accuses us of interference. We said let's have a neutral verification. India doesn't want that either. What can we do when one country arrogates to itself the right to make allegations and then adjudging their veracity? I still say I.K. Gujral is a man of peace. I also think V.P. Singh wants peace. But we have learnt from third country sources that a section of the Indian intelligence community says this is the last chance to destroy Pakistan's military machine.

On Pakistani strategy:

We are taking our case before the international community and are inviting scholars, journalists and parliamentarians from all over the world to see things for themselves. We will even be happy to welcome a delegation of Indian parliamentarians to visit Azad Kashmir. We want to talk about Kashmir and not go to war.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

accusing the Pakistan Government of having designs to absorb Kashmir, others have begun to campaign against those demanding freedom. "It is a crazy idea," declares Azad Kashmir Prime Minister Sikandra Hayat Khan: "Surrounded by Russia, China and India, Kashmir cannot survive as an independent country." The contradiction has obviously unsettled the Kashmiris. Says Syed Mahmood Bukhari, a Kashmiri refugee in Lahore: "What is Kashmir but a bone and what are the two countries fighting for it but dogs." But most Pakistani analysts believe that ultimately the Kashmiris would prefer Pakistan to independence, and so the ISI is trying to strengthen the Jamaat-oriented militant groups as against the Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Front.

MEANTIME, the hawks in Pakistan's strategic think-tanks have begun to talk about Indian efforts to blackmail Pakistan with a war-threat in order to cool things in Kashmir. Commentator Mushahid Hussain, fast emerging as a hawk opinion maker, has already written strongly against any Pakistani move to "bail India out of trouble" in Kashmir. Any concession to India at this stage, he says, will be akin to the appeasement of Nazis by Chamberlain in 1938 that, nevertheless, failed to prevent the Second World War. Officials also acknowledge that there is no way India would lose Kashmir, even if it means war. "As pressure increases, India may be inclined to go to war with Pakistan, and give it a sound knock on the head to convince the Kashmiris that their future is inextricably linked to India. But it won't work," says Akhund.

For Benazir the dilemma is: if she relents on Kashmir she is damned at home; if she doesn't, she could be headed for a war she may not want. The question is: which of the two is a greater risk? On her actions in the coming weeks will depend the subcontinent's fate. Having come so far, will she have the strength and the time to let events taken their own course in Kashmir? Or will she, pushed by her opposition, public opinion and her own weakness for the typical Bhutto rhetoric, up the ante?

There are lessons to be drawn from the experience of her late father in two wars (1965 and 1971) in which he was a central figure, from the fragility of the hold of her own government on power, and perhaps from the mood in India. And if not from there, then from Duke Norfolk in Shakespeare's King Henry XIII, who exhorts: "Heat not a furnace for your foe so hot that it do singe yourself."

—SHEKHAR GUPTA in Pakistan

KASHMIR ISSUE

'Jehad' for Kashmiris

TEN kilometres from the Shahdara bridge on River Ravi outside Lahore, past the tomb of Jahangir, the left flank of the highway suddenly comes alive with posters and buntings. The cause of the commotion is the forthcoming election to the 40 seats of the so-called 'Azad Kashmir' assembly.

What makes the election here so special is not merely the personality of one of the contenders, Sardar Ateeq Ahmed Khan, son of 'Azad Kashmir' President Sardar Qayoom. It is in constituencies such as this, Pakistani political analysts say, that the real test lies. For Jammu-29 is one of the 12 constituencies reserved for Kashmiri refugees staying outside the territory of Kashmir, and since this one is in the heart of Punjab, it is supposed to reflect the mood not just of the Kashmiri diaspora, but also of Punjab.

It doesn't require a pollster to gauge the mood here, as the dusty, pot-holed track leads you straight to a sea of anger and frustration. "Who cares for the Kashmiris and who cares for the elections? All everybody wants is power and money. Or would the Government have held elections at this time? Shouldn't they all have contributed this money to the liberation of Kashmir instead?" asks Syed Ghulam Rasul Bukhari, 36.

Bukhari's tea-shop marks the beginning of a conglomeration of semi-pucca houses, extravagantly called Kashmir town. Here, everyone knows their neighbours for all the inhabitants are Bukharis who fled the countryside around Poonch in 1947-48, when fighting broke out there between Pakistani and Indian troops. Today, they are disillusioned even with the country they had sought to make their second home. "Why don't they just say the cease-fire line does not exist, give us arms and let us liberate Kashmir?" asks Bukhari angrily.

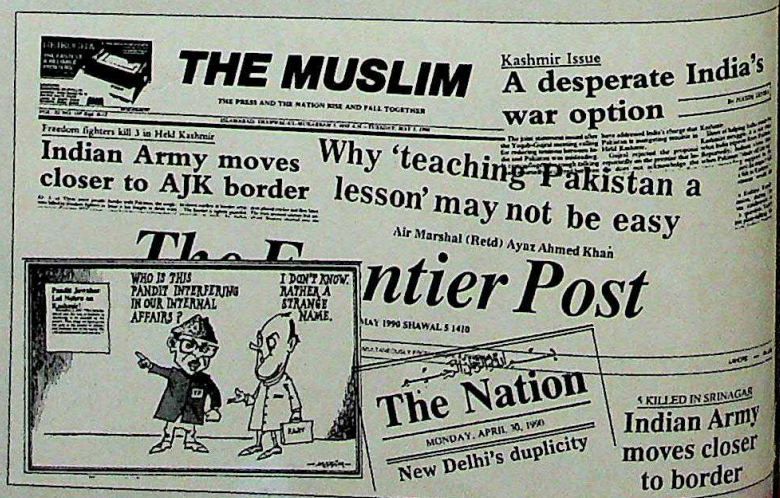
While there is unanimity that Pakistan has a "just, moral, legal and political" case on Kashmir, the feeling is that Pakistan must not go to war. There is

PAK MEDIA

Operating Under Pressure

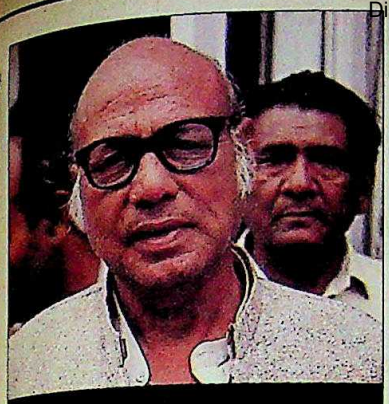
A curious thing happened on the front page of the Lahore-based daily, *The Frontier Post*, last fortnight. It published a notice asserting support to the Kashmiri cause and offering a public apology for the publication the previous morning, of a picture showing General A.A.K. Niazi at the surrender ceremony at Dhaka in 1971.

Within hours, the paper had com



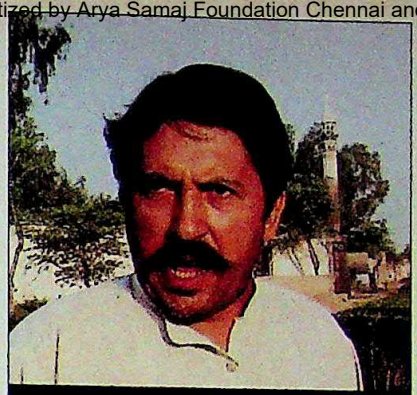
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



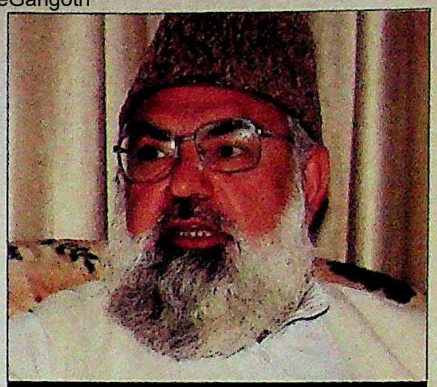
"After losing Bangladesh, I am shocked how they harp about Kashmir."

HABIB JALIB
Popular Poet



"Why don't they just say the cease-fire line does not exist, and let us liberate Kashmir?"

SYED GHULAM RASUL BUKHARI
Tea Shop Owner



"A flood of recruits will come to our camps as news of atrocities comes from Srinagar."

HAJI NASEER AHMED
Chief of Khaksars Camp

also widespread criticism of the Benazir Government for what is widely perceived as losing the first round of the diplomatic battle to India. "What has this government done? When Zia went around looking for support on Afghanistan, 140 countries backed us. Today on Kashmir, no more than three have done so and even Yasser Arafat has said that Kashmir is India's internal affair," laments Ejaz Ahmed Dar, yet another Kashmiri refugee who works in the telegraph department.

The same paradoxical mix of cynicism and determination is visible elsewhere. Last fortnight, even as a large, noisy May Day procession wound its way through the heart of Lahore, a group of men sat under a tent at Regal Chowk making impassioned pleas to fellow Muslims to join the "jehad to liberate Kashmir". The workers of Tehrik-e-Jinnah (movement of Jinnah) have now sat for more than a fortnight at Lahore's busiest square to collect funds for the "Kashmiri cause". A volunteer, dressed in a typically Arab kaffiyeh ("We have donned the gear of the fedayeen," he says), exhorts the faithful to join the "crusade". "Dying in the jehad is better than living 70 years. Free Kashmir Muslims from the yoke of Hindu tyrants. Jehad. Jehad. Jehad," he thunders.

But there are few buyers. The volunteers thrust Rs 5 donation slips under the nose of every passerby but few pay up. "We have seen more like them. They all collect their money and go," says Adbul Khaliq, a 1965 war veteran.

The volunteers remain unfazed. "The point is not how much money we collect. We are spreading the message and preparing people for jehad. They should be ready when the day comes," says Zahoor Hussain. His bitterness is understandable. The native of Kanpur remembers in graphic detail how his father, a police officer, was killed in Ambala in the communal frenzy following Partition. "The Hindus have never accepted Pakistan. They believe in *jiski lathi uski bhais*" (might is right), he says. The fact that in over an hour not one passerby donates money does not bother him, for, as he puts it: "Once the jehad begins what people will offer is blood, not just money."

under pressure from the Government and the army to apologise for publishing what was regarded as a demoralising photograph. Nobody took notice of the fact that the paper had merely lifted the article by Ravi Rikhye, an Indian analyst, along with the accompanying picture from INDIA TODAY's May 15 issue. Rikhye had argued why India cannot afford to go to war with Pakistan now.

Such are the pressures the Pakistani media is operating under in today's surcharged atmosphere. "By and large, our press has remained restrained compared to the Indian media," says Mushahid Hussain, former editor of the Islamabad-based daily *The Muslim*. The official media, initially sedate, now labels every Kashmiri killed a martyr, and every victim of the militants, a spy.

Like Indian newspapers often have pacifists arguing against war and calling for concessions to Pakistan's position on Kashmir, some Pakistani media persons too make the point orally. But no one can suggest a solution on Kashmir short of plebiscite and get away with it.

It is in the newspaper columns, however, that the opinions of the Pakistani intelligentsia find articulation. Said *The Frontier Post* in an editorial comment on the Gujral-Yaqub talks in New York: "India has recoiled to its isolationist posture. And that means war...India can't put down the uprising."

Surprisingly, the most sedate editorial comment often comes from the state-owned *Pakistan Times* edited by veteran journalist I.A. Rahman. It regularly takes India to task, but stays firmly away from contributing to the war psychosis. *The Nation*, on the other hand, lambasted India's claim to secularism and even accused the Indian consul-general of being an intelligence agent. The Urdu *Jang* carried a story alleging that on April 17, the Indian Air Force had a plan to bomb Pakistan but abandoned it when it realised that Pakistani intelligence had sniffed it out. Says a prominent Pakistani editor: "In such a surcharged atmosphere, it is impossible for us to talk reason. The fact that I cannot make even this statement on record shows the pressures we are working under."

When liberals are driven to act this way, there is obviously nothing to restrain the hawks. —SHEKHAR GUPTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Less than 10 km away, outside the historic Badshahi Mosque and on the edge of the Minar-e-Pakistan Park, yet another group of fedayeen is asking for just that. Ever since its inception in India in 1881, Khaksar Tanjim, sometimes known as the *belcha* (spade) party, has tried to collect mujahedin for a variety of Islamic causes, from freeing the Suez Canal from "infidels" to the war in Afghanistan. Often they have been the butt of jokes.

TODAY Khaksars, who have launched a campaign to recruit one lakh mujahedin for the "liberation" of Kashmir, claim that their credibility is better. Says the khaki-clad Haji Naseer Ahmed, 40, the salar-e-awwal camp (chief of the first camp), who is incharge of the recruitment operation near the Badshahi Mosque: "Initially nobody came. Now people come in trickles. Soon it will become a flood as news of more atrocities comes in from Srinagar." In the background, the other Khaksars sing "*Chalo chalo Kashmir chalen, Kashmir bataur-e-shamshir haasil karein*" (Come, let's go to Kashmir. Let's grab Kashmir on the strength of our swords.)

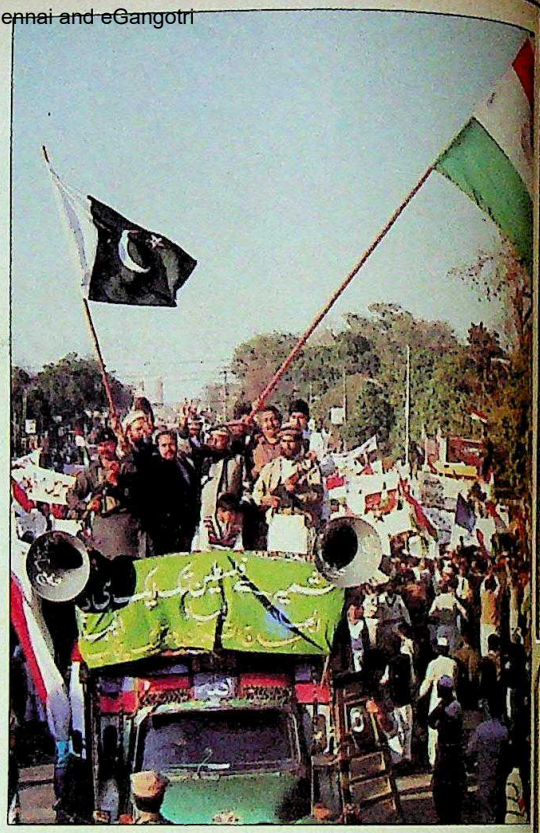
The camp attracts some attention due to its proximity to Pakistan's most important mosque. Whether it brings the Khaksars recruits is difficult to say. According to Ahmed, new recruits get their elementary military training in Lahore itself before being sent to camps elsewhere for more advanced training.

But outside the Pakistan-held part of Kashmir, the only place where armed training camps for Kashmiri militants are believed to exist is in the heart of Rawalpindi town. Lal Haveli in Rawalpindi is an old, garishly red-painted building that serves as the political headquarters of Sheikh Rashid, the gangly, 33-year-old general secretary of the Islami Jamoori Itehad (IJI), who shot into prominence during the last elections when he defeated PPP stalwart and former army chief, General Tikka Khan, by 20,000 votes.

Lying in the deepest recesses of the congested Bohar Bazar in old Rawalpindi, hemmed in by dozens of junk shops on either side, Lal Haveli is hardly the place for a training camp for separatists. But official sources say it serves as a mere nerve centre to coordinate several camps for Kashmiri youth on the outskirts of the city. Even Benazir Bhutto has publicly criticised Rashid for organising the camps, indicating that India could be tempted to locate camps so prominently situated. Says Rashid: "The way Benazir has talked of it is as if she is beckoning Indians to come and bomb us. Let them do that. We are not scared." He says he is not running armed training but merely providing assistance to refugees. "We accommodated three million Afghans. Why can't we look after a few thousand Kashmiris?" he asks.

The signs are, however, unmistakable. Lal Haveli is guarded round the clock by Kalashnikov-carrying guards many of them from Kashmir Valley. And then Rashid calls some of his refugees for interviews. Says Abdul Ahad, 22, who fled Batamalloo during a search by paramilitary forces: "There is no going back now. I know where my family is. They won't know where I am till Kashmir is free."

Rashid says it does not matter whether he gives these men training or not. "After what has



Tahirul Qadri leads a jehad rally in Lahore

PAK DEFENCE

Battlefield Scenarios

ALL through last fortnight, speeding, star-plated cars were a ubiquitous sight on the wide avenues of Islamabad. For the Pakistani top brass it was time to take stock of the situation and look at the likely war scenarios.

The first round of discussions ended with a national defence committee session attended by the commanders of all the army corps and navy and air force formations, as well as the prime minister, the President, the minister of state for defence and the minister for the interior.

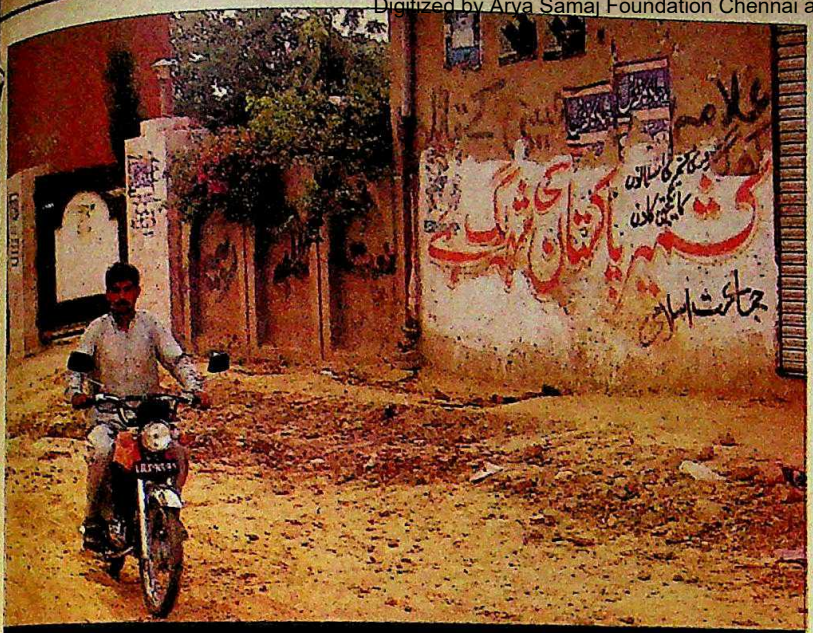
The scenario most Pakistani analysts talk about is an Indian 'hot pursuit' action or an attack on one of the camps around Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan-Occupied Kashmir. This, they conjecture, would lead to a Pakistani retaliation. Pakistan does not expect major Indian offensives in Kashmir—where Indian forces are expected to be tied down by problems—or in Punjab.

Even now, Pakistani military analysts go along with the post-Operation Brasstacks belief that India will attack with its armour and strike formations through the desert, aiming for Pakistan's narrow nerve centre around the Sukkur barrage where the east-west and north-south road and rail axes meet. Under Multan Corps Commander Hamid Gul (famous as head of the Inter-Services Intelligence under Zia) Pakistan is making massive defensive preparations in this sector. The reputed Pakistani newsmagazine *Herald* has reported that Pakistan has assigned all 20 of its Huey Cobra attack helicopters here.

Ideally, Pakistan would like to attack with all its strength in the Samba-Pathankot corridor to cut off India's forces in Kashmir. This is where the Beg doctrine comes in. Unveiled in the course of exercise Zarb-e-Momin last winter, the doctrine aims at using the large general reserves made available by the easing of the Afghan situation to launch a counter-attack, preferably in Indian Punjab. It is in this sector that Pakistan would like to commit a bulk of its air strength as well. A Pakistani mo

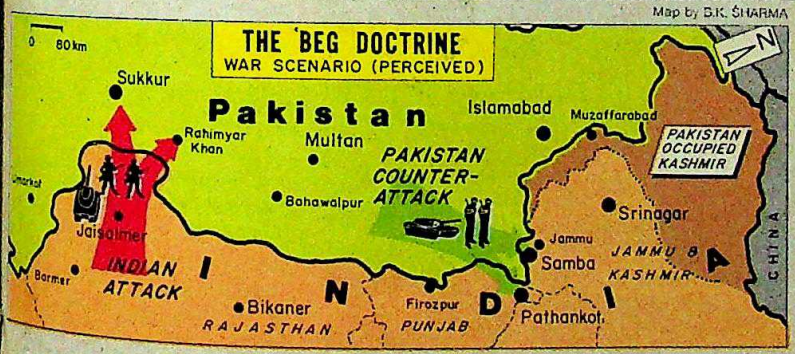
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Kashmir slogans on a wall

Kashmir and the threat along the eastern borders has catapulted the Pakistan Army right back into the political fray. It is they who now call the shots on the Kashmir issue.



towards Pathankot with a feint elsewhere in Punjab is a possibility.

Pakistani analysts say the main reason for their forces' confidence is the perceived preoccupation of the Indian Army with internal strife and the pressure it will put on supply lines. "Yet nobody is under any illusion that it will be anything but a defensive war except, with luck, in Kashmir," says an analyst.

Pakistanis say they are acutely conscious of their weaknesses. Their air force will be under tremendous pressure to back the ground effort, hold back the Indian Army and also guard itself from the Indian Air Force. And the Pakistan Navy, in Beg's own words, may be able to do no more than "fight for survival". Pakistani planners remember the Indian Navy's blockade of Karachi, their only port of any size, in 1971. So, port facilities are being rapidly developed further north along the Baluchistan coast bordering Iran. In the event of a blockade, Pakistan expects supplies to keep coming by road from Iran through Baluchistan. The Pakistanis believe they will hold their own in a two-week war.

But therein lies one vital element that could upset all calculations. The option of keeping the war short and crisp or long and decisive is likely to be India's and the passage of each day, after what in military parlance would be called 'D plus 15', could place tremendous pressure on Pakistan. —SHEKHAR GUPTA

happened to them, they will fight," he says. Where will they get the arms from? "Many small nationalities have fought by the side of the Afghan mujahedin. So did the Kashmiris. What are a few hundred rifles for any one close to the Afghans?"

THE Muslim Conference Government of Pakistan-held Kashmir has set up the Kashmir Liberation Cell, headquartered at Rawalpindi's Chandni Chowk. Working out of a shopping complex, it doesn't look like the military training camp that the Indian Government's dossier on Pakistan made it out to be. But it is the hub of a massive propaganda effort to help the Kashmiri militants. Under Khwaza Sanaullah Shamim, the 68-year-old veteran of the first pro-Pakistan movement in Kashmir in 1947, and a member of the first 'Azad Kashmir' cabinet, the centre produces and distributes booklets on the Kashmir situation, documenting Indian "atrocities" world-wide besides keeping in touch with international human rights organisations. But even Shamim asserts that his centre confines itself to publicity: "The uprising in Kashmir is indigenous. I wish we could claim that we did it. As for the arms finding their way into your side of Kashmir, let me say that water finds its level. In these parts, if you want arms you can get them."

In Shamim's office booklets are being written and proofed, new phone connections are being installed and mailing lists compiled. The popular response to the Kashmiri cause, as perceived from the Pakistani side, may yet be lukewarm, but when things heat up, the machinery will be well in place.

The only problem is that, by then, it may be too late to contain the force of popular opinion, leaving the weak Benazir Government no choice but to go along with it. Such a situation is fraught with dangerous consequences—including a self-destructive war—but such is the emotional consensus on Kashmir today that hardly anyone has the courage to speak against it.

Barring an exception like the popular poet Habib Jalib who told a May Day rally of intellectuals in Lahore last fortnight: "*Nasheeli ankhon, madhur geeton ke sunder mulk ko khokar, main hairan hoon wo zikr wadiye Kashmir karte hain*" (After losing Bangladesh and dismembering their own country, I am shocked they still go on harping about grabbing Kashmir.) Yet, Jalib's voice is a lonely one for he has always been a rebellious oddity—more so in today's surcharged atmosphere.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA in Pakistan

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE BACHCHANS

Feeling the Heat

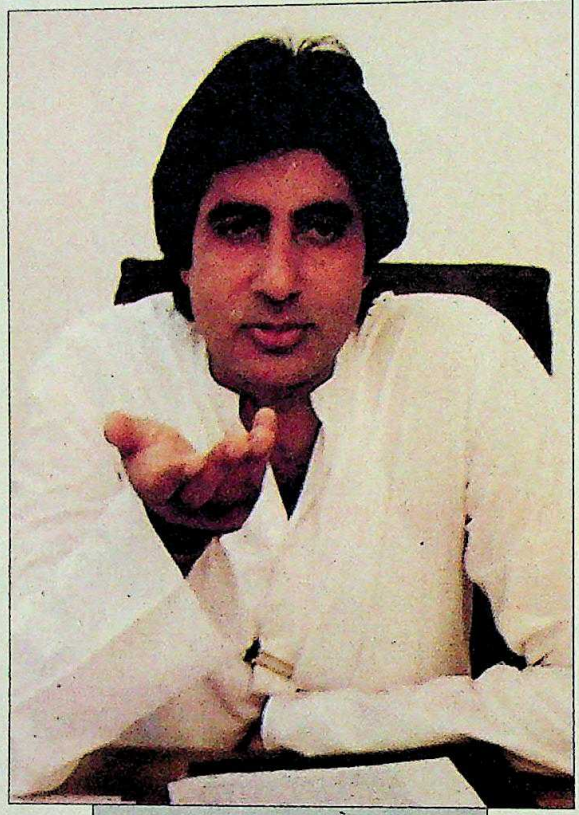
The Commerce Ministry and income tax authorities open up cases of financial irregularity against Amitabh Bachchan and his brother Ajitabh.

THE V.P. Singh Government has begun the expected crackdown on the financial affairs of the Bachchan brothers—opening old cases and instituting new inquiries into allegations of improprieties committed over several years.

Many ministries have issued near simultaneous notices to film star Amitabh and his businessman brother Ajitabh, now a Swiss resident, charging violation of income tax and foreign exchange laws.

The first shot was fired by the Commerce Ministry late last month when it directed the chief controller of imports and exports to investigate their pharmaceutical firm's financial dealings in preparation for prosecuting the Bachchans for failing to meet their export commitment.

PRASHANT PANJIAR



AMITABH BACHCHAN

The latest move came from the Finance Ministry on May 7, when Rajiv Nayar, standing counsel for the Enforcement Directorate, asked the FERA board to reopen the case against Ajitabh for the acquisition of a flat worth over Rs45 lakh in Switzerland in March 1986.

The government actions promised to swell into a veritable anti-Bachchan blitzkrieg. And this was hardly surprising, least of all to the Bachchans who have long maintained they would pay a "political price" for their closeness to Rajiv Gandhi, should V.P. Singh come to power. There was never any love lost between the Bachchans and Singh even when Amitabh and he were in the same party. And during the general elections Singh repeatedly vowed to uncover the "misdeeds" of the Bachchans to get at Rajiv who, Singh said, was covering up for them.

So, even though the entire megabuck film world has traditionally been suspect in the eyes

Amitabh's Films	Year	Disclosed Receipts (Rs)	Additional Income Assessed (Rs)*
Adalat, Alaap, Amar Akbar Anthony, Iman Dharam, Khoon Pasina, Parvarish	1976-77	4,34,005	5,30,450
Besharm, Don, Ganga Ki Saugandh, Kasme Vaade, Trishul, Muqaddar Ka Sikandar	1977-78	6,82,337	8,83,967
Jurmana, Kala Patthar, Mr Natwarlal, Ram Balram, Suhaag, The Great Gambler	1978-79	15,60,618	19,07,459
Do Aur Do Paanch, Dostana, Shaan, Naseeb	1979-80	24,94,883	30,49,301
Barsaat Ki Ek Raat, Laawaris, Silsila, Yaarana	1980-81	37,88,789	46,30,742
Bemissal, Desh Premee, Khuddaar, Namak Halal, Satte Pe Satta, Shakti	1981-82	18,25,000	22,30,556
Coolie, Mahaan, Nastik, Pukar, Andha Kanoon	1982-83	30,48,501	37,25,946
Inquilab, Sharaabi	1983-84	39,64,271	48,45,220
Mard	1984-85	68,23,393	83,39,702
Shahenshah, Ganga Jamuna Saraswati	1987-88	16,62,224	20,31,607

*By tax au

of the tax au
special targe
tant comm
opened his
The departm
liminary rep
come betwe
could cross
dragnet cov
properties b
at below m
"The exerc
discovering
chans had s
The co
purchase of
which simm
after it broke
on June 17
faced. In resp
ment Direct
FERA violatio
he had beco
acquired th
agreement
ployer, Arco
contractual
February 28
agreed to pr
well as pay
1,00,000 (a
at that time
sultation fee
Documen
the previous
torate had re
sertion of his
but it was ov
special direc
In an order
he ruled that
fide NRI as of
1986, and,
gally entitle
out of India.
But there
erable confi
exactly when
came an NR
ther he was
foreign curre
For example,
Vepari & Co,
accountants'
senting Ajita
the directora
"Our client h
us to state th
September, 1
ent has bee
consultancy
M/S Arcopha
also holds a
and executiv
Arcolab."
This raise

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

of the tax authorities, Amitabh became a special target last month when an assistant commissioner of income tax reopened his returns, going back 10 years. The department's conclusions in a preliminary report: the star's concealed income between 1976 and 1987 *(see chart)* could cross the Rs 3.2-crore mark. The dragnet covered the acquisition of farm properties by the Bachchans, apparently at below market rates. Says an official: "The exercise is on. We are discovering how wide the Bachchans had spread their empire."

The controversy over the purchase of the flat by Ajitabh—which simmered for three years after it broke in the *Indian Express* on June 17, 1987—has resurfaced. In response to the Enforcement Directorate's notices for FERA violations, Ajitabh claimed he had become an NRI and had acquired the flat as part of an agreement with his Swiss employer, Arcopharma. Under a contractual obligation, dated February 28, 1986, Arcopharma agreed to provide him the flat as well as pay him Swiss Francs 1,00,000 (around Rs 6,20,000 at that time) annually as consultation fees.

Documents show that under the previous regime, the directorate had rejected Ajitabh's assertion of his NRI status *(see box)* but it was overruled by the then special director, Krishan Kant. In an order dated July 29, 1988, he ruled that Ajitabh was a bona fide NRI as of February 28, 1986, and, therefore, legally entitled to benefits out of India.

But there was considerable confusion about exactly when Ajitabh became an NRI, and whether he was entitled to foreign currency benefits. For example, Natwar Lal Vepari & Co, a chartered accountants' firm representing Ajitabh, wrote to the directorate in 1987: "Our client has instructed us to state that since 1st September, 1986, our client has been rendering consultancy services to M/S Arcopharma Ltd and also holds a managerial and executive position of Arcolab."

This raised troubling questions. Even if Ajitabh's claim that he had signed the contract with Arcopharma on February 28 were accepted, the record showed he had returned to India that very month; and that his contractual payments started in September.

THIS meant Ajitabh had neither established the NRI residency requirements that a person of Indian origin should be out of the country for at least 180 days prior to claiming NRI status, nor received, at least officially, any contract payments until September. So the main issue that remained was that if Ajitabh was not a legal NRI, and had not received any payments from the Swiss firm until September, how could he have acquired the flat in Switzerland in March?

In a response dated December 14, 1987, the accounting firm replied: "This was due to misinterpretation of instructions given by our client to us."

That's not the only charge, however. For more than six months before he changed his residence to Switzerland in September 1986, Ajitabh received a salary and benefits from several Indian companies owned by him and his family. But during this very period he had also declared himself an NRI. Under the law, an NRI cannot receive an Indian salary without government authorisation. Ajitabh also went abroad on trips financed in foreign exchange by his Indian companies whereas, legally, an NRI cannot withdraw foreign exchange.

Ajitabh's response was that he had come to India in 1986 for "winding up" his commitments. But the record shows he stayed in India from March to June and again from July to September, spending 160 days in India during the year, losing his entitlement to the NRI status.

The new petition charges that even if Ajitabh's declared income during this period was taken at face value, his expenses outweighed his known income. For example, Ajitabh had stated in late 1987 that he was paying Swiss Francs 90,000 annually for the education of his four children studying in Swiss schools from 1986. But his stated income was only Swiss Francs 1,00,000. More, how did he acquire "substantial ownership" in two Swiss companies, Arcolab and Arcopharma?

The previous government's files show that Kant, notwithstanding the voluminous doubts raised by the directorate's inquiries, allowed the more substantial case to

GAURAVI GUJARAJ

AJITABH BACHCHAN

THE CHARGES

- THE flat in Switzerland was bought in his name without the RBI's prior approval.
- He's failed to submit original ownership documents to Indian authorities.
- While claiming to be an NRI he drew foreign exchange from Indian sources.
- He claimed to be an NRI, but was in India for 160 days out of 194 from February to September, 1986.
- He has been travelling to various countries as a tourist and businessman resident in India.
- He wasn't an NRI since he was a director on Indian companies.

THE DEFENCE

- The flat was bought in his name by his employers; they paid for it.
- M/s Arcopharma was debarred by Swiss banks from disclosing ownership papers.
- His companies claimed foreign exchange for his trips not understanding his NRI status.
- He stayed in India to wind up his business. But he kept going abroad for his Swiss employers.
- His trips abroad were technical errors and do not alter his NRI status.
- The RBI permitted him retrospectively, to transfer shares of these companies as an NRI.

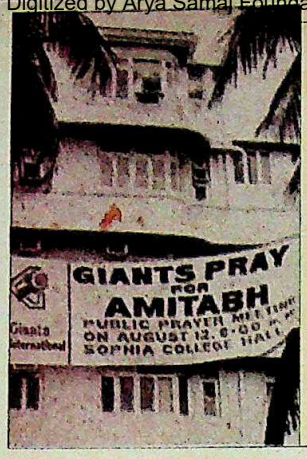
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

slip away by exonerating Ajitabh, while imposing minor penalties on some of his companies. This is now seen as an attempt to give credibility to Kant's decisions. For example, IPCA, a pharmaceutical concern, was imposed a penalty of Rs 12,000 for paying Rs 80,650 to Ajitabh as his salary for March 1986 to August 1986 and another Rs 2,500 penalty for acquiring $1,220 in foreign exchange for his business trip abroad. Then, Lotus Investment was fined Rs 5,000 for making a payment of Rs 30,000 to Ajitabh while he was still an NRI but living in India. Curiously, none of the companies appealed the penalties. The fines served the dubious purpose of establishing, officially, that the previous government recognised Ajitabh's status as an NRI from February 1986 onwards.

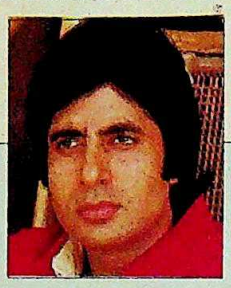
Even more curious, the directorate ignored the practice of appealing the decision of the adjudicating officer—in this case Kant—to the FERA appellate board. Instead, enforcement director K.L. Verma sought the advice of the then finance secretary Gopi Arora on whether or not to appeal. Arora told him to seek the advice of attorney general A. Parasaran. The file was with him for over 14 months, and came back to the department two days before the results of the general elections were announced, declaring it a case not fit for appeal. But the Attorney General, Soli Sorabjee, has advised reopening the case.

Even as the financial sleuths were opening up Ajitabh's past, the income tax authorities began a comprehensive review of Amitabh's tax returns, as well as second-guessing the decisions made by officials of the previous regime. For several years, income tax officials had voiced the suspicion in official notes that the superstar was not showing the real amount of the money he received for starring in films. For example, in his income tax returns, he has claimed that he was paid Rs 1 lakh for *Hera Pheri*, Rs 2.5 lakh for *Khoon Pasina*, Rs 2.49 lakh for *Suhaag* and Rs 4.76 lakh for *Muqaddar Ka Sikandar*. On the basis of these returns, the income tax officials conducted raids in the late '70s on Prakash Mehra and S.P. Choudhury, producers of *Hera Pheri*. For the next few years, the investigations dragged on. During the deposition, both Mehra and others admitted making huge cash payments to Amitabh. The officials concluded that an excess of Rs 13.69 lakh was paid to Amitabh between 1976 and 1981.



Amitabh claimed he had spent just Rs 35,000 on his long treatment at Breach Candy.

Banner announcing prayer for Amitabh



AMITABH'S DEFENCE

- **The income tax investigations are politically motivated and vindictive in nature. He has been very particular in disclosing his income on a regular basis.**
- **In opening his income tax returns of the last 10 years, the income tax authorities have singled him out for special treatment.**
- **The income tax authorities did not give him enough time to reply to their charges and to cross-examine witnesses against him.**
- **He is one of the few leading film stars who don't have any income tax arrears.**

Interestingly, Amitabh made an attempt to get his undisclosed income regularised during Rajiv's regime. A year after V.P. Singh left the government, Amitabh filed his revised returns, voluntarily disclosing an additional amount of Rs 35 lakh received between 1976 and 1988. The returns, filed in 1988, were accepted without demur. The new order raises the question why officials—including A.S. Thind who superseded three senior members to become Central Board of Direct Taxes chairman in 1989—ignored suggestions by junior officials to inquire into massive medical expenses and travels abroad by Amitabh and his family.

The income tax authorities are now quoting Amitabh's recent interviews in which he stated that he had to go abroad every third month for monitoring a chronic muscular disease. The department has asked him to furnish details of these expenditures. His chartered accountant explained: "All that is stated in the interviews is not necessarily facts or material which should be relied upon by the Income Tax Department....Our client is a superstar and several times certain statements are made for mass consumption and for certain other reasons, but statements in such interviews may not be factual or may be overstated."

Amitabh had claimed he spent about Rs 35,000 on his treatment at Breach Candy Hospital for the injury he received during the shooting of *Coolie* at Bangalore in 1982. But the producers, M.K.D. Films, in their returns, showed an expenditure of Rs 2,14,934 on Amitabh's treatment which the Income Tax Department has now added on to his income for that year.

According to income tax officials, Amitabh made seven trips abroad between May 1980 and September 1983. Queried about these trips, Amitabh claimed they were financed by a US resident Kirit Trivedi who sponsors his shows abroad. The authorities have concluded that these payments should also be added on to his income.

The Bachchans have so far not disputed the Income Tax Department's calculations. In fact, Amitabh did not even show up last month for the hearing where he was asked to cross-examine Prakash Mehra and others who had given damaging statements against him. He claimed the 48-hour notice was too short.

For the time being, Amitabh seems to have chosen to fight it out politically. He and his brother have accused the Government of political vendetta. Amitabh has sent letters to the prime minister, challenging him to prove the charges or apologise for the insinuations.

There is at least one thing the Bachchan brothers can draw perverse comfort from: evidence about their financial irregularities will probably drag the former prime minister into the spotlight, while casting them into the shadows of the public stage.

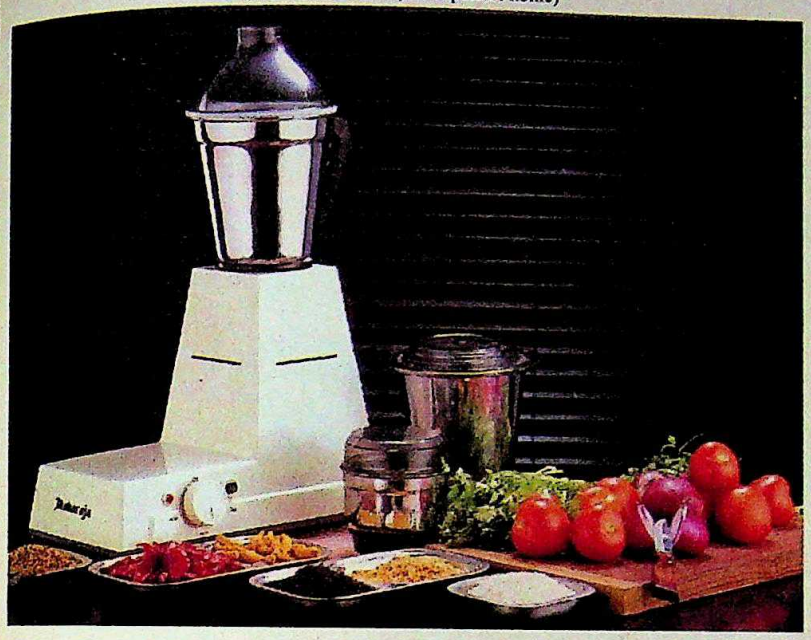
—PRABHU CHAWLA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Maharaja recipe for the perfect mixer-grinder

(And five more ways to a perfect home)



Whatever the house chore, there's a Maharaja for it. And no matter how big your workload is, Maharaja handles it better.

The five-course meal made easy

The Maharaja Mixer-Grinder. A heavy duty motor. An incredible 60 minutes non-stop running time. **Three jars** — to give each of your courses a special taste. A good-looking, unbreakable casing. And an indestructible motor coupling.

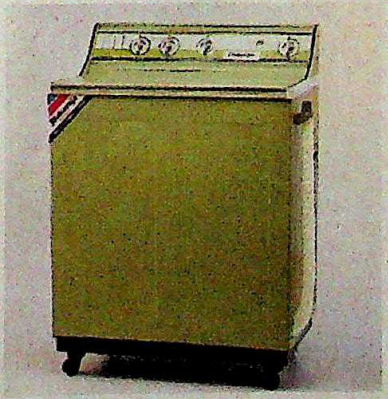
The health wave starts here

The Maharaja Juicer-Blender. A super-tough, super-fast motor and a handy self-cleaner.

Instant designer sandwiches

The supreme Sandwich Toaster. Futuristic design. Thermostatic auto cut-off.

Washing curtains without tears



The Maharaja Washaid. A powerhouse motor that can run 3 hours non-stop and clean anything from lace to curtains. Choice of wash, rinse and drying timings and actions. **Special buzz alarm. Castors.** And much more. In a rugged, scratchproof steel body.

Not a wrinkle in sight

The Maharaja Auto Iron. Instant heating facility. 3 variable temperatures. Super-efficient spray attachment. Shockproof body.

How to suck up dirt you didn't even know was there

The Maharaja Vacuum Cleaner. 30% more sucking power. Eight litre storage capacity. Impact-resistant ABS body on wheels.

Maharaja home products are designed with your needs in mind, to world standards. And we know, as you do, that its the little details that make a big difference. So the next time you're looking for a home appliance, pick one from the Maharaja range shown here. We guarantee it will be the beginning of a lifetime relationship.

For further enquiries :

Maharaja International Ltd. Post Box No.2866
New Delhi. 110060

Maharaja
WHITELINE
APPLIANCES

They'll go through anything to keep you happy.

Anthem/MIL/796/1A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Now, singing isn't the only creative thing you can do in

LINTAS M SCL P62 2437

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

n can in your bathroom.

Introducing Wallscapes.
Exclusive screen printed wall tiles from Spartek. In designs that let you create your own masterpieces on your walls.
So, go ahead, mix and match – express yourself in your bathroom with Wallscapes.
Who knows, it might even help you sing better!

Wallscapes

TILES • FOR • DESIGNER • WALLS

SPARTEK
Ceramics India Limited
52, Chamiers Road, Madras 600 028.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CORPORATE ENTERPRISE IN THE 1990s

What will the role of the corporation be in this last decade of the twentieth century? There are no facile answers. It is a time for taking stock, for assessing the new ground that lies ahead.

A time to take a decisive stand for the future.

Delivering on the promise The '80s were turbulent times. The economy changed, the state of technology took a quantum leap and the corporation's attitude to its customers took a new shape. It was a time when the corporation began moving closer to the reason for its existence — the people.

Perhaps never before has the concept of excellence been so important for the Indian or international corporation.

For excellence provides the spur for growth and diversification. It encourages the development of human resources. It facilitates investment, both in product improvement and in blue sky research. And most important, it allows the corporation to work in harmony with the goals and needs of its country, rather than with short-term profit motives.

The 1990s belong to the corporation that can offer the country this level of commitment.

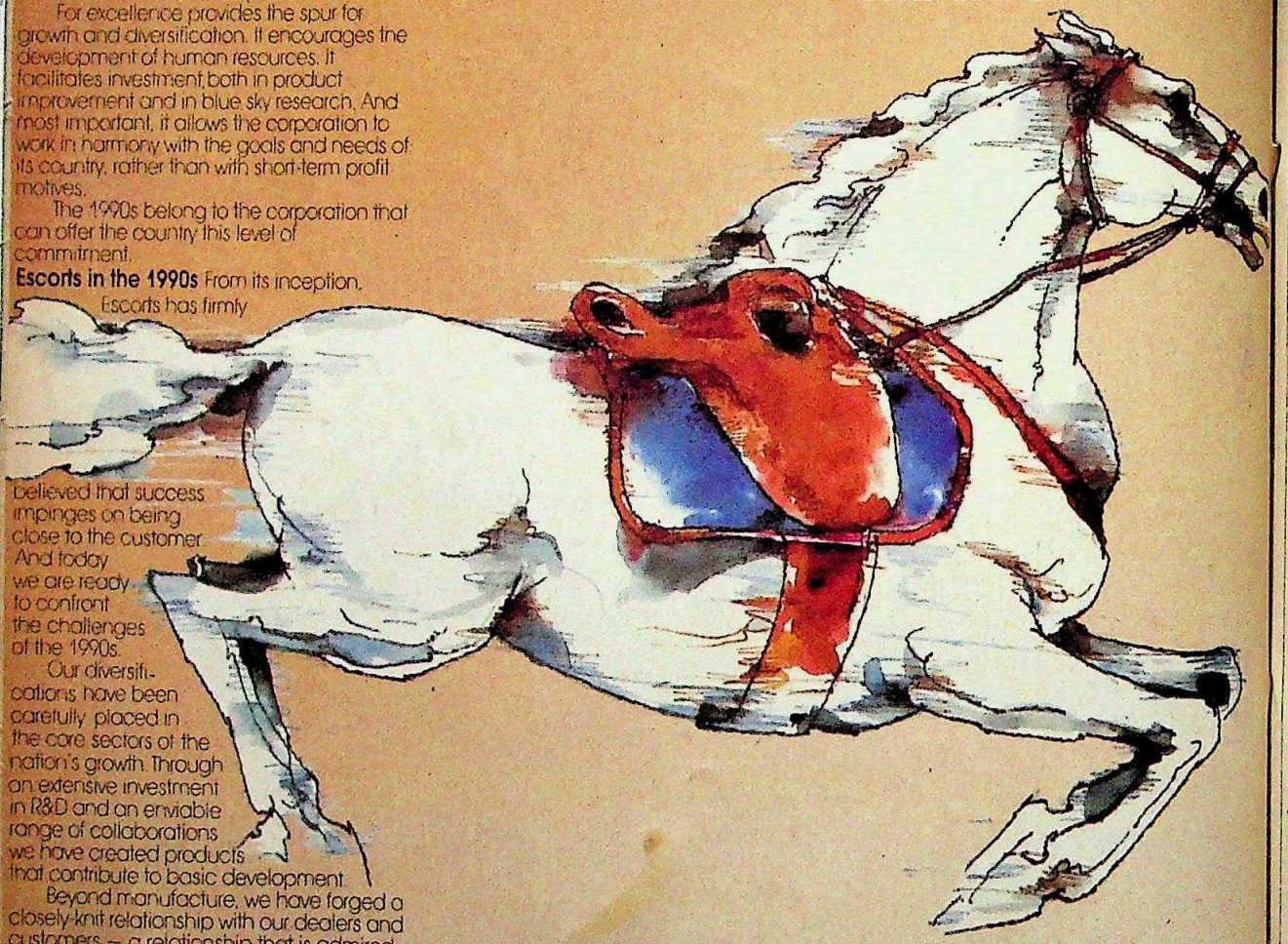
Escorts in the 1990s From its inception, Escorts has firmly believed that success impinges on being close to the customer. And today we are ready to confront the challenges of the 1990s.

Our diversifications have been carefully placed in the core sectors of the nation's growth. Through an extensive investment in R&D and an enviable range of collaborations we have created products that contribute to basic development.

Beyond manufacture, we have forged a closely-knit relationship with our dealers and customers — a relationship that is admired and emulated. And through our village adoption and afforestation programmes and the Escorts Medical Centre and the Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, we have sought to improve the way of life around us.

Today, with 22,000 employees, 16 modern manufacturing plants and a turnover of nearly Rs. 800 crores, Escorts is among India's top ten engineering corporations.

On the threshold of the 1990s, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles and the people who have brought us here.



ESCORTS LIMITED

ENGINEERING CHANGE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CONGRESS(I)

Crisis of Leadership

With Rajiv Gandhi unable to provide an effective leadership or a clear policy directive, the Congress(I) is pulling in different directions.

GIMMICKS, high drama, braggadocio have always been the instruments employed by out-of-power Congress(I) leaders in order to continue to hog the headlines and remain in the public eye and the nation's political consciousness. The memories of Mrs Indira Gandhi riding an elephant in Belchi, Bihar, in 1978 during a mass contact programme, or of Sanjay Gandhi and his street fighters defying the police on Delhi's Janpath are still vivid.

So it was not exactly out of character for Rajiv Gandhi to plan a 12-hour fast at Rajghat to focus attention on "national integration". It did seem a little incongruous that he should display this solicitude for Gandhian methods within a week of announcing a high tea for Oxbridge alumni on the lawns of the India International Centre. But it was yet another pointer that Rajiv Gandhi and his party are struggling to establish a new post-electoral identity. But they haven't quite got there.

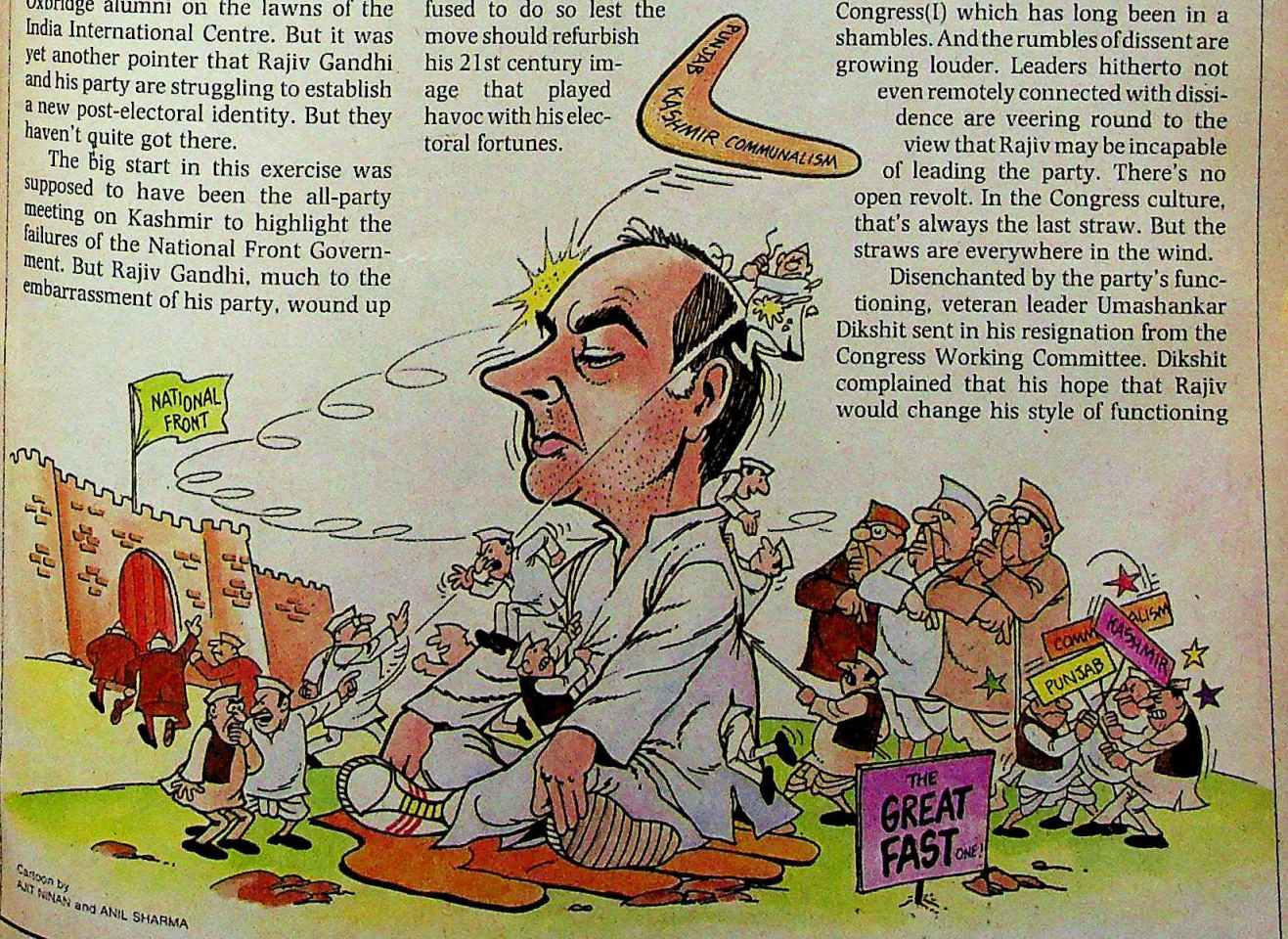
The big start in this exercise was supposed to have been the all-party meeting on Kashmir to highlight the failures of the National Front Government. But Rajiv Gandhi, much to the embarrassment of his party, wound up throwing tantrums instead of the fiery polemics that were expected, and carved out for himself a media image of brat rather than statesman.

But there's always that second chance. So, with the planning of the national integration fast, it was a case of once more into the breach, dear friends. Except, this time around, Rajiv is not quite sure who his friends are and to what extent his defeated party will continue to follow him. And his entire approach now smacks of uncertainty and political schizophrenia. For example, he was supposed to move into the posh new AICC(I) office, Jawahar Bhawan, some months ago from the present rickety party headquarters, but has refused to do so lest the move should refurbish his 21st century image that played havoc with his electoral fortunes.

Out of power for five months, Rajiv does not seem reconciled to his fate. The illusions of power persist—his imperiousness showing up often: his hosting an 'Iftar' party for foreign diplomats, conventionally considered to be the privilege of the prime minister; inviting his former Special Protection Group guards for tea at his residence, disregarding the fact that they are still in service; summoning former foreign secretary S.K. Singh for a meeting following his resignation; making absenteeism from the Lok Sabha a habit notwithstanding his being leader of the Opposition.

The tactics can scarcely be said to have helped the political resurrection of Rajiv or the rejuvenation of the Congress(I) which has long been in a shambles. And the rumbles of dissent are growing louder. Leaders hitherto not even remotely connected with dissidence are veering round to the view that Rajiv may be incapable of leading the party. There's no open revolt. In the Congress culture, that's always the last straw. But the straws are everywhere in the wind.

Disenchanted by the party's functioning, veteran leader Umashankar Dikshit sent in his resignation from the Congress Working Committee. Dikshit complained that his hope that Rajiv would change his style of functioning



Cartoon by AJIT NINAN and ANIL SHARMA

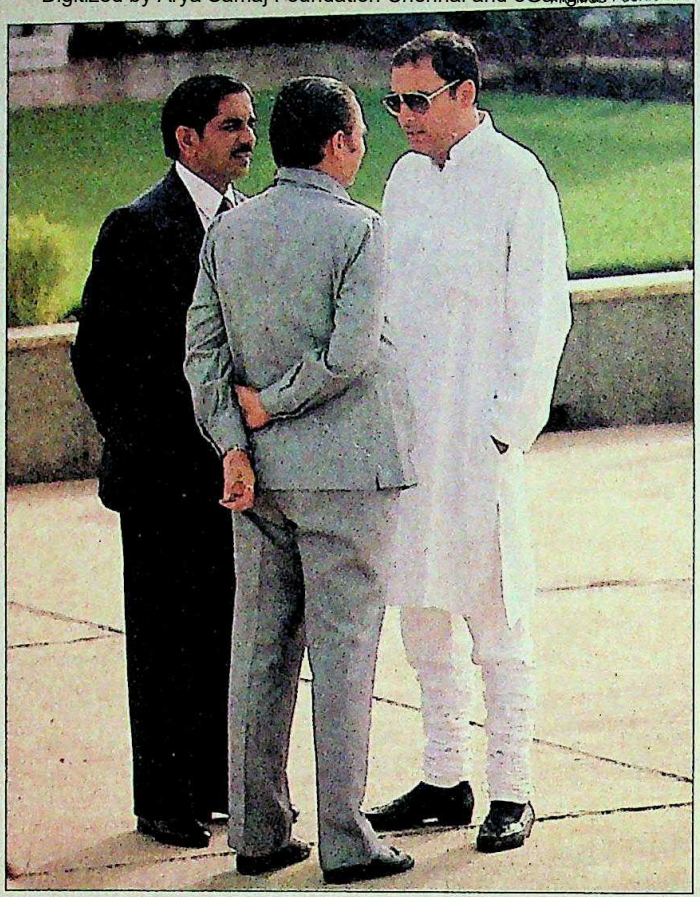
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

after the poll defeat had been belied. Balasaheb Vikhey Patil, president of the newly-launched Congress Forum for Action, is known for his proximity to former finance minister S.B. Chavan, who makes no bones about his antipathy to Rajiv. Another MP associated with this forum, Bagun Sumbrui, is a protege of Bihar party unit chief Jagannath Mishra. Mishra is still a loyalist, but the fact that supporters like Sumbrui are tugging at the rope is indicative of the pressures on the loyalists to distance themselves from Rajiv. The forum is holding a convention in the capital later this month. The proxy war has already begun.

The disenchantment, increasingly showing up among Hindi heartland Congressmen, stems partly from the fact that as leader of the largest single party in Parliament, Rajiv has scored few or no successes against the party in power. During the last two parliamentary sessions, the Congress(I) has won only a few skirmishes, the most recent one when, in response to criticism by Congress(I)'s Vishvajit P. Singh of Minister of State for Home S.K. Sahay's gratuitous reference to a religious community by name, the ruling party offered its regrets. But for the most part, the Congress(I)'s performance has been characterised by the belligcosity of a few MPs rather than any sustained, convincing or clear-headed critique of the National Front Government's performance on major issues like Kashmir, Punjab and communalism.

The Kashmir issue alone should have provided Congress(I) political cannon fodder because of the National Front Government's confused and indecisive handling of the problem. But confusion can only be fought with clarity. The problem with the Congress(I) is that on this issue it is just as confused as the ruling front is.



PRAGOOD PUSHKARNA

Rajiv with Dhawan (left) and Fotedar: coterie under attack

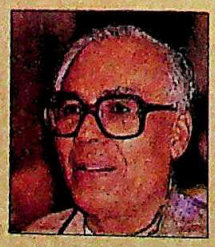
THE EMERGING DISSIDENTS

VIKAS MANCH

BANSI LAL

Headed by former Haryana chief minister Bansi Lal, the organisation is strongly opposed to the attempt by Rajiv Gandhi to forge unity between the Congress(I) and the Devi Lal faction of the Janata Dal. Bansi Lal favours total opposition to Devi Lal and his son, Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala.

JANASTHA MANCH



BHAGWAT JHA AZAD

Launched recently, the organisation is led by former Bihar chief minister Bhagwat Jha Azad. Its immediate goal is to remove Jagannath Mishra from the presidentship of the Bihar PCC(I). The final goal is to rally all important Bihar Congress(I) leaders against the party's central leadership.

FORUM FOR ACTION

NAWAL K. SHARMA

One of the leading lights of the Congress Forum for Action, Nawal Kishore Sharma's objective is to restore inner-party democracy within the party and force organisational elections. Other prominent leaders include its convenor Vikhey Patil, an MP from Maharashtra, and Jitendra Prasad.

THE YOUNG TURKS

ANAND SHARMA

Consisting of a group of young leaders mobilised by former Youth Congress(I) president Anand Sharma and former Madhya Pradesh party chief Digvijay Singh, the Young Turks' objective is to destroy the coterie around Rajiv Gandhi. Their principal aim: to get R.K. Dhawan out.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

seeks to criticise. Rajiv and his spokesmen alternatively blame Pakistan and Governor Jagmohan for the problems in the valley. In blaming Pakistan they dub New Delhi as weak-kneed and demand a crackdown. And when the governor cracks down on militants, they blame him for displaying the toughness that their own party has been demanding. And the party is hopefully divided over the issue of a more aggressive posture towards Pakistan. Contrary to the official Congress stand criticising the "war hysteria", Vikhey Patil and several others recently issued a statement indirectly supporting an attack on training camps in Pakistan—just what the BJP demanded.

On Punjab, the Congress(I) cannot make up its mind on whether to support continuance of President's rule or early elections. And it has waffled on the Ram Janmabhoomi issue. What has, however, intrigued partymen most is the leadership's ambivalence on the issue of secularism. A section of the Delhi Congress(I) unit was clearly associated with the Shankaracharya of Dwarka in his preposterous move to lay the temple foundation at the disputed site in Ayodhya even when the militant Vishwa Hindu Parishad was respecting the four-month suspension of its own move in this regard. Swinging to the other extreme, Rajiv himself lashed out at the BJP charging it with "spreading the poison of communalism in every corner of India". The workers are left wondering which among the signals they are receiving are correct even while its spokesmen were criticising the BJP as the main culprit responsible for fanning communal fires in the country.

But what made loyal Congressmen really angry was the party's opportunistic pro-Om Prakash Chautala stand. While the BJP and a large number of Janata Dal leaders were demanding the Haryana chief minister's resignation, the Congress(I) high command discouraged its Haryana unit from making Meham an issue in the state.

IN fact, the Congress(I) candidate in Meham accused the leadership of softpedalling the entire issue. And when the official leadership crumbled under pressure, it was Bansi Lal who took the cudgels on behalf of anti-Chautala Congressmen by launching his own organisation in the state.

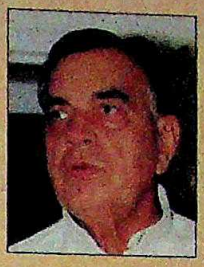
And for some inexplicable reason, Rajiv was unable to play the one anti-government card that would have earned his party major public dividends—attacking the unprecedented spiral in prices over the past few months. The advantage, by default, went to Prime Minister V.P. Singh, who quickly cashed in on the follies of his own government and crisscrossed the country attacking the price rise and threatening retaliation against hoarders.

The most obvious symptom of the leadership vacuum that's developing is in Parliament where Rajiv now rarely appears. The Rajya Sabha is now dominated by the party's lung-brigade: S.S. Ahluwalia, Ratnaker Pandey, Suresh Kalmadi and Jayanthi Natarajan; and the Lok Sabha by the south brigade led by Rangarajan Kumaramangalam, P. Chidambaram; with the west, Vasant Sathe, and Dinesh Singh, close at heel.

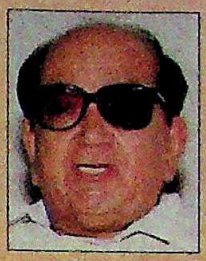
The formation of various ginger groups of opposition to Rajiv was not entirely unexpected. And they did not take Rajiv by surprise. In anticipation, he had taken a few well-calculated measures. He shrewdly distanced himself from or reassigned to other chores the more discredited members of his several coteries as they had come to be called. Satish Sharma, who had an office at Rajiv's Race Course Road residence during his prime ministership, is now conspicuous by his absence at 10, Janpath, the opposition leader's new address. Makhan Lal Fotedar, another permanent fixture in Rajiv's durbar earlier, is said to have lost much of his clout. He is not regularly seen in the leader's tow. At least for form's sake, Rajiv is discussing party matters regularly with senior leaders like P.V. Narasimha Rao, Vasant Sathe and V.N. Gadgil. And old party faithfuls like H.K.L. Bhagat, Balram Jakhar, and C.K. Jaffer Sharief have been resurrected. At his daily morning darshan, Rajiv is assisted by such middle-level leaders as Rameshwar Nikhra, Seva Dal chief, and former

THE OLD FAITHFULS

JAFFER SHARIEF



BALRAM JAKHAR



H.K.L. BHAGAT

With murmurs against his own leadership growing louder, Rajiv Gandhi has once more discovered the value of loyalty. The recent reshuffle in the AICC(I) was evidence of that. Back in favour were old faithfuls H.K.L. Bhagat, Balram Jakhar and C.K. Jaffer Sharief, men who had stood by him and his mother through good times and bad. In the process, he chose to ignore Jakhar's involvement in the fodder machines scandal and Bhagat's reputation as a power-broker.

THE NEW SYNDICATE

VEERENDRA PATIL

CHENNA REDDY

SHARAD PAWAR

Congress(I) chief ministers no longer jump when the high command cracks its whip, at least not the syndicate led by Sharad Pawar, Veerendra Patil and Chenna Reddy. The three have been meeting secretly and resisting—with considerable success—the imposition of ministers by the party leadership. With 90 MPs under their control—half the Congress(I) tally—and a mass base of their own, they can afford to buck the leadership and insist on a greater say in party affairs.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"I bought a VIDEOCON Washing Machine because you can see that it's International quality. And backed by excellent service of course"

Micro-Computer Based Automatic Washing Machine V-NA-811

FEATURES : • Wash load capacity – 4 kg. • Needs no manual attention after initial start. • Choice of wash programmes/strong, gentle, speedy, normal. • Tough on dirt, very gentle with clothes. • Can wash blankets, rugs, carpets etc. • Facility for using fabric softener. • Special bleach inlet. • Lint filter to collect loose ends. • 100% safe. • Two year warranty. • Well established, prompt after sales service. • Available in two colours.

Twin Tub Washing Machine With Spin Drier V-NA-200T

FEATURES : • Wash load capacity – 3 kg of dry clothes. • Tough sturdy motor with thermal fuse. Automatic shut off for 100% safety. • Reversible motor action for better cleaning. • Spin drier to ensure fast and even drying. • Special facility of using spin drier for very efficient rinsing. • Draining possible from left or right to suit your home. • Tough on dirt and very gentle with all types of clothes, will not tear off buttons etc. • Very low power consumption and 100% safe. • Two year warranty. • Well established, prompt after sales service. • Available in three colours.

V-NA-811

VIDEOCON
Washing Machine

SJAS 90035

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

minister Margaret Alva. He meets hundreds of ordinary people and grassroots workers. In the Congress(I) office in Parliament he now regularly meets party MPs for an hour everyday. The Congress(I) Parliamentary Party is also meeting every fortnight. This glasnost has already left its impress on some Congressmen, at least. Says AICC(I) spokesman V.N. Gadgil: "I see a change in him. He is making an effort to be more accessible to partymen."

Not everybody in the party, however, is convinced about Rajiv's new strategy. They point out that during the past five months that the Congress(I) has been out of power, the leadership has failed to reactivate the party. Former party MP Bir Bhadra Pratap Singh gives vent to the prevailing mood in the party: "Either he (Rajiv) sheds the former bureaucrats' ring around him or the party must find a new leader." Says a senior party leader: "Not a single nationwide agitation has been launched, we have just been sitting over issues and opportunities."

Vasant Sathe repeatedly claims: "This young man's basic political instincts are correct." But this is probably wishful thinking. For all the cosmetic change and illusion of activity, Rajiv is still a prisoner of various interest groups in the party. In matters of party organisation he is being guided by his political aide R.K. Dhawan. Dhawan's hand is clearly discernible in the recent appointment of party office-bearers both at the national and state levels.

WHILE the newly-appointed AICC(I) General Secretary C.K. Jaffer Sharief is known as Dhawan's protege, Veerendra Patil and Chenna Reddy, Congress(I) chief ministers of Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh, have regretted the 'inadequate representation' of the south in the latest revamping of the party organisation at the national level.

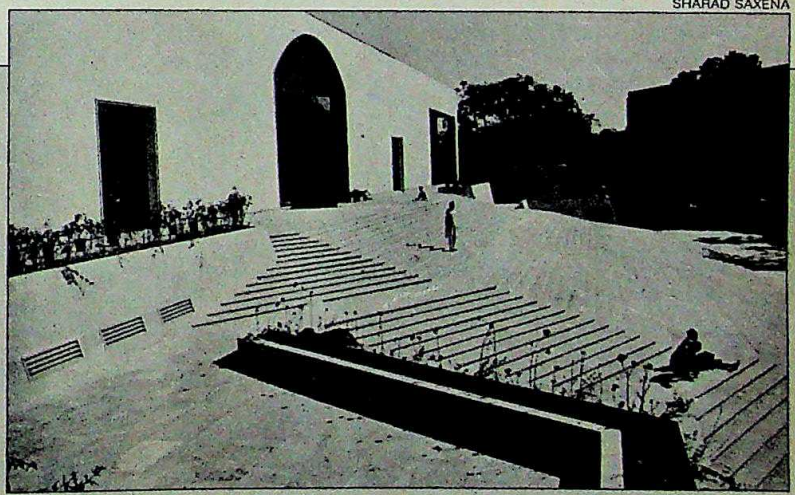
Nor has Rajiv forsaken his whimsical style of functioning which marked his five-year rule. The other day he called a meeting of some party functionaries at his residence only after midnight. The partymen were surprised since earlier that day he had no major engagement.

And so, disturbing signs are emerging for Rajiv from different party quarters. He is reportedly concerned over the growing ranks of party leaders disgusted with his leadership. Madhavrao Scindia, A.R. Antulay, A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhary, Dinesh Singh, Hari Krishan Shastri and Ram Chandra Vikal are said to be among them. More ominous, however, was the meeting of the Congress(I) chief ministers of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Andhra Pradesh at Tirupati recently. Convened ostensibly to discuss the Telugu-Ganga project, the meeting provided the forum for the emergence of what can be called a new syndicate.

But Rajiv's biggest advantage is that a majority of the party's 107 MPs from the south are reluctant to have anybody else as the party leader. "There is no other leader we can sell in our constituency," says an MP from the south. Adds Bhagat: "The nation's future politics is closely related to what Rajiv Gandhi does during the next few months. There is total unanimity on his leadership in the party." On the surface, yes. But below it simmers a cauldron of doubt and speculation about who will finally bell the cat and when.

—PRABHU CHAWLA with BHASKAR ROY

SHARAD SAXENA



Party headquarters: gearing up

Poll Talk

BARRING the communist parties in socialist countries, the Congress(I) is the world's largest political organisation. On its rolls are more than 2,44,32,000 members. Of them 15,72,000 are 'active members'. However, the 105-year-old party hasn't held organisational elections for the past 18 years. Rajiv Gandhi still occupies two top posts simultaneously—that of party president and leader of the Opposition—like Indira Gandhi who too was party president and prime minister, a clear violation of the party constitution which recommends the one-man-one-post norm.

In 1986, there was an effort to hold party elections. The move was scuttled when the then Congress(I) working president Kamalapati Tripathi raised the issue of large-scale enrolling of bogus members. After the defeats in the Lok Sabha and assembly elections, the Congress(I) Working Committee (CWC) has recently decided to revive the process. A party committee headed by veteran leader Umashankar Dikshit recently submitted a report recommending 42 amendments to the party constitution for plugging loopholes in the poll process.

The existing procedure for party elections leaves wide scope for manipulation. Any person by simply paying Rs 25 or enrolling 25 primary members can become an active member and participate in the polls. State party bosses often spend huge sums to enrol fictitious members. Responding to an award announced by the Lucknow Congress Committee for enrolling the highest number of members Jawaharlal Nehru once joked that there should have been actually two awards—one for enrolling genuine members and another for bogus ones.

If the CWC accepts the Dikshit Committee recommendations, a special session of the AICC(I) will be called to ratify them. It is at the full party session that the election schedule will be announced. The new president is likely to be elected in December.

Rajiv has appointed observers for each state to prepare a preliminary report on the party organisation before the elections. However, the composition of the team suggests that the crucial job will be in the hands of his loyalists.

—BHASKAR ROY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ST KITTS

Booking the Suspects

FIR on the forgery case shows high-level involvement

PROFESSOR Kamal Kant Tewary, remembered best for his wordy pugilism during his tenure as a minister in the Rajiv Gandhi government, will soon find himself at the receiving end. And what is going to hit him is perhaps far more serious than his electoral defeat.

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has finalised an FIR accusing the former minister of state for external affairs, along with six others, of being party to the St Kitts documents forgery case—the amateurish attempt by the previous government to smear V.P. Singh by linking him to a phoney multi-million dollar off-shore bank account bearing the signature of his son, Ajeya.

The former Union minister for external affairs P.V. Narasimha Rao, and Prakash Shah, an additional secretary in the External Affairs Ministry, were also scrutinised by the CBI but the bureau decided not to press charges against them. Besides Tewary, the other accused in the conspiracy to forge documents are the controversial godman Chandraswamy, his aide Kailash Nath Aggarwal alias Mamaji, former enforcement director K.L. Verma, Deputy Director A.P. Nanday, American businessman Larry Kolb and George McLean, the former managing director of the now defunct First Trust Corporation, a banking and financial concern based in the Caribbean tax haven, St Kitts.

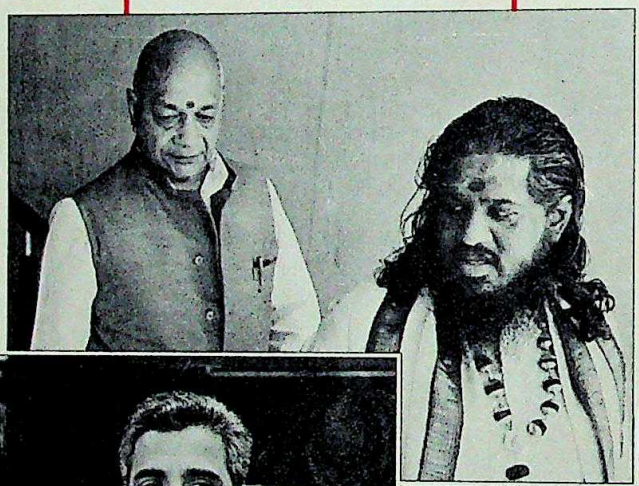
Last August, Ajeya Singh was accused of having a foreign account in the First Trust Corporation in which he had deposited over $21 million (Rs 35 crore). *The Telegraph*, then edited by M.J. Akbar, now a Congress(I) MP, and *The Hindustan Times* published the story.

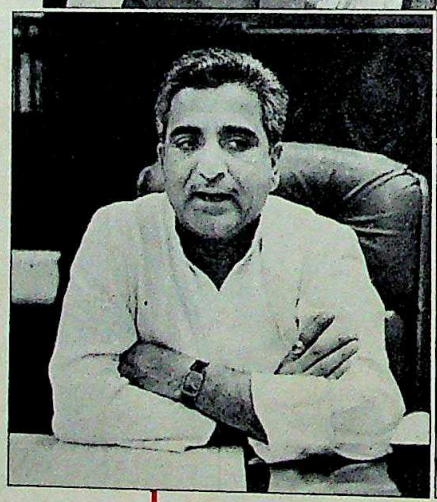
Act II of the St Kitts drama began unfolding soon after the defeat of the Congress(I) in the November general elections. R.K. Rai, India's consul-general in New York fired the first salvo when he wrote to the foreign secretary, saying that he was arm-twisted into authenticating certain documents. Around the same time, Shiv Kumar, the Indian high commissioner in Trinidad and Tobago, wrote to Cabinet Secretary Vinod Pande that Chandraswamy, Mamaji, Larry Kolb and four foreign service officials attempted to pressure him into arranging some documents and a letter from the prime minister of St Kitts confirming that Ajeya had an account there.

The move to involve Ajeya apparently began at the end of 1988 when Tewary was the minister of state for external affairs. In an oral directive to a joint secretary in the foreign office, Tewary asked for the passport details of Ajeya and Abhey Singh—V.P. Singh's younger son. According to the CBI, the motive was to get a copy of their signatures. So a file called "passport facilities of Ajeya Singh" was formally opened. After an exhaustive search, two passport renewal applications of Ajeya—who is an NRI—were located by the Indian High Commission in London. The applications, dated September and February 1977, were sent to the joint secretary, who kept them in his personal custody till last year.

And the signatures which appeared on the St Kitts documents, were identical to those on the application forms.

IN THE DOCK





(Clockwise from left) Mamaji, Chandraswamy, Rao and Tewary: dirty tricks

> The CBI has concluded that Narasimha Rao, Tewary and senior officials had put together the St Kitts documents.

maintains the CBI. Ajeya had changed his signature in 1986. Even V.P. Singh's signatures were in English though since 1980, he had begun signing in Hindi.

Till this point Tewary was the major director of the drama, maintains the CBI. After that Narasimha Rao also became involved. The bureau claims to have what it calls "irrefutable evidence" of Narasimha Rao's connection with the Saudi arms dealer Adnan Khashoggi and Chandraswamy.

From Narasimha Rao's hotel bills the bureau's sleuths found that the telephone

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

number 371-0942—which happened to be at Khashoggi's place where Chandraswamy and Mamaji usually stayed—was called ten times from the minister's room, including at 9.42 a.m. on October 4, while the consul-general was waiting for the minister's instructions. Notes the CBI chargesheet: "There are materials to conclude that Mr Narasimha Rao was acting in the matter in consultation with Larry Kolb, Kailash Nath Aggarwal and others and he was in constant touch with the premises of Adnan Khashoggi."

The CBI has unearthed yet another link between Chandraswamy, Khashoggi and the St Kitts conspiracy. In his statement to the CBI, Nanday has admitted that while investigating the case he travelled from St Kitts to New York in a private plane with Larry Kolb—an offence under the code of conduct for government officials. The CBI now claims that the plane was owned by Khashoggi. Interestingly, in his report to the previous government, Nanday had not disclosed this vital information. Another revealing admission from Nanday is that, before his departure for the US, he was instructed to see R.K. Dhawan. Nanday has told the CBI that though he did discuss St Kitts with Dhawan, he was not given any important instructions by him.

The conclusion that the CBI has drawn from all this evidence is that George McLean was roped in by Chandraswamy and others to fabricate his own company's records in order to create an account in the name of Ajeya Singh. For, in spite of repeated requests from the present Government, McLean has not been able to produce original documents of the alleged accounts. According to the CBI, all that he has come up with are the 'customer's copy' which should not be with him in the first place but with Ajeya. Moreover, the entire conspiracy falls flat when one considers the fact that though Ajeya was accused of having deposited $21 million in the First Trust Corporation in 1986, in his annual reports for that year, McLean had shown total deposits of just $9 million.

The Congress(I) has in fact already begun dismissing the probe as an eyewash and an attempt to cover up for the prime minister's son. Said a Congress(I) MP: "Someone should look into the lifestyle of Raja's son, Ajeya, who is staying in the US for the last five months without a proper job. That may provide some answers to St Kitts as well."

Perhaps. But whatever answers have emerged so far have boomeranged on the Congress(I). St Kitts Round Two has clearly gone to the Raja.

—PRABHU CHAWLA

INSIDE EYE BY INDERJIT BADHWAR

Why Arif Weeps

ARIF Mohammed Khan is a deeply stricken man. Compassionate, sensitive, religious, he frets about the future of his identity. Even while lost in his ministerial chores he finds himself drawn into the darkness of Kashmir.

He is not afraid of that tear streaking down his cheek when discussing Kashmir. He thundered during a recent Cabinet meeting that the success of the secessionist movement in the valley would shred the India that has nurtured him. His India would simply cease to be.

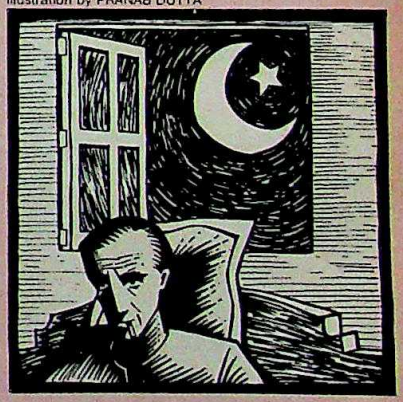
He is not alone. I have met maulvis from Shekhupur, Muslim brass workers in Moradabad, sickened by the attempted manipulation of Indian Muslim sentiment through Kashmiri separatism and Islamic nations. "Those apologists for what's happening in Kashmir, they're *playing* with secularism, with *our* fate," wails Bashir Ahmed, whose family has been in the brick business in Bareilly for two generations.

And their concern is seminal.

The continuance of India as a secular nation even after its religionist dismemberment remains one of the world's noblest experiments with modernism. A beacon of enlightened thought piercing Jinnah's dark-age two-nation theory that within Hindu India lies a sub-nation of Muslims doomed to live in injustice, and indignity, whose only salvation lies within an Islamic state.

India's 10 crore Muslims continue as an existential diaspora of defiance to this credo. As Syed Shahabuddin told me recently: "For all the communal upsurges, I've not written off Indian secularism. Its roots are strong. After all, Hindu fundamentalists haven't been able to demolish Babri Masjid so far."

Illustration by PRANAB DUTTA



While Indian secularism, no matter how flawed, survived, if even in the form of a political Holy Grail, Jinnah's two-nation theory received a virtual death blow after the birth of Bangladesh. Pakistan's very *raison d'etre*, the basis of its nationalism, that Muslims could live peacefully only in an Islamic state, was proved historically and morally untenable. After Bangladesh, the fundamental dilemma for Pakistan was: If Muslims couldn't survive together in an Islamic state specially carved out for them, but were continuing to do so within India, then where was the justification for Pakistan?

Pakistan has had a revanchist vested interest in showing up the "hollowness" of Indian secularism. Pakistan's instigation of India's Muslims with the support of the pan-Islamic movement is the corollary of this imperative. The crisis in Kashmir is not of Pandit versus Muslim, or nationalist versus secessionist. It is once again a subliminal testing time for Jinnah's two-nation theory versus India's secularism.

The current phase of the movement in Kashmir is controlled by terror brigades dedicated to creating a theocratic state, to secession not only from India but from secularism. Its success would be a victory for the two-nation theory, a defeat for the very *idea* under which so many Muslims have made India their home, an impetus for a Hindu revivalism of unfathomable dimensions.

Should people like Arif again be made to choose between two nations? That is why they weep.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SERVING SUCCESS

The service reaches the farthest corner of the court, deft placements, long rallies testing the stamina—and thunderous ovation.

Meena Shah, Ami Ghia, M. Mathias, Madhumita Bist. T.N. Seth, Romen Ghosh, Dipu Ghosh, Suresh Goel, Asif Parpia, Iqbal Maindargi, Leroy D'Sa, K.K. Cheema, Syed Modi, Sanat Misra, Harjit Singh and several others.

Each one of these badminton champs wore the Railway colours with pride and served the nation with distinction.

All evoke nostalgic memories, reflect the indomitable will to win and inspire us to reach new pinnacles of glory.

In the sports arena the Indian Railways have an enviable record—winning over twenty national sports championships each year. Every fourth 'Arjuna' awardee represents the Railways! This symbolises the fortitude, physical fitness and team spirit among the 16 lakh-strong family of Indian Railways.

Yes, the Indian Railways have an unbeaten track record as the largest in Asia, carrying 11 million passengers and nearly 10 lakh tonnes of freight over a distance four times to the moon each day. Higher productivity and greater public service are only a few of the milestones the Indian Railways are reaching.

The endeavour to excel continues unabated as the Indian Railways echo the sportspersons dream of 'Swifter! Higher! Stronger!!!

INDIAN RAILWAYS

CHAMPIONS OF THE TRACK

In Public Domain. Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JANATA DAL

Fierce Feud

Conflict over party president

THE paradox is glaring. The election of an interim party president for the Janata Dal, meant to be a political show-piece of inner party democracy, seems to have brought the fledgling party to the verge of what could be a breakdown.

When the party office-bearers holding more than one post quit in the wake of Prime Minister V.P. Singh's resignation from the party presidentship, it seemed to be the beginning of the party's effort to push democratic norms a notch or two higher.

Singh proposed an electoral college comprising all the candidates who had contested the parliamentary and assembly elections on the party tickets. Initially there was great excitement as the last time such a poll was held was way back in 1972 in the Congress Party. Singh, it was presumed, would score an important point over Congress(I) President Rajiv Gandhi by getting a new president elected. However, it did not take long for the plan to go awry.

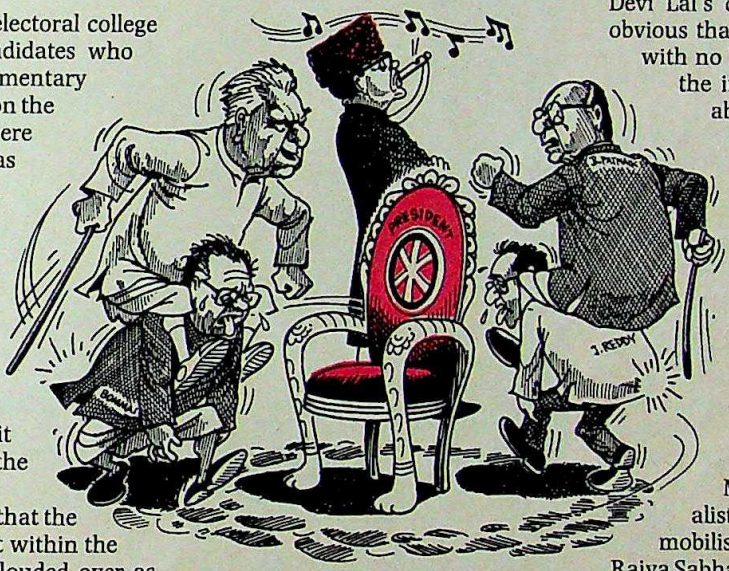
The initial euphoria that the decision created, at least within the Janata Dal, was soon clouded over as many factional leaders in the party saw in this an opportunity to indulge in political oneupmanship. And soon enough, such efforts snowballed and the fragility of the party surfaced.

The battle for interim president had a fairly innocuous beginning. Ramakrishna Hegde, considered the most suitable leader to take up the reins of the party, made it clear at the beginning that he would file his nomination only if it was proposed by the prime minister.

Singh, however, declined on the plea of neutrality. Then suddenly Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal sensed an opportunity to consolidate his position. He pitchforked former Karnataka chief minister S.R. Bommai into the contest and projected him as his candidate. Ajit Singh, in a quick deal characteristic of him, patched up with Devi Lal and also threw his weight behind Bommai. The sulking Chandra Shekhar too lost no time in throwing his weight behind this group obviously to embarrass Singh.

On the other hand the V.P. Singh camp put up party spokesman Jaipal Reddy as their nominee conceding Devi Lal's demand that the party president should be from the south. Sant Bux Singh, elder brother of the prime minister, who was initially in the fray, later withdrew. Hukumdeo Narain Singh, the third candidate does not have much backing but is keen to see that the election takes place.

Devi Lal initially hesitated in coming out openly against Reddy. When approached before his departure for China, the Choudhary said that in the elections he was not taking sides though had Hegde been contesting he would have opposed him. He even said to Reddy: "My blessings are with you, you have done excellent work as the party spokesman."



Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

> **The election of an interim party president seems to have brought the fledgling party to the verge of a breakdown.**

When the Political Affairs Committee of the Janata Dal met on April 23, members asked Singh to make his choice clear. He again declined on the plea of neutrality. Despite persistent pressure from party leaders Singh continued to maintain that he did not have a candidate. Meanwhile Om Prakash Chautala had a series of secret meetings with Bommai. Emboldened by such support, Bommai called a press conference and said: "I will win by an overwhelming majority. Most of the senior leaders have pledged their support to me."

Reddy, however, is no weakling either. As party spokesman he has established a rapport with important state party leaders, and has been able to maintain an edge right from the beginning of the race. In Haryana, Uttar Pradesh and Gujarat—where the chief ministers opposed him—senior party leaders assured him some votes if not the majority of them. In Uttar Pradesh, Rewati Raman Singh, a senior minister, openly campaigned for Reddy against the wishes of Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav who decided to support Devi Lal's candidate. By now it was obvious that the battle would be grim with no holds barred. The fact that the interim president would be able to preside over the party for hardly four months after which the organisational elections would be held was no deterrent to the contestants and their backers.

Similarly in Gujarat where Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel decided to support Bommai, Union minister Chimanbhai Mehta, a staunch Singh loyalist, worked overtime to mobilise support for Reddy. The Rajya Sabha member from Andhra Pradesh however vehemently denies the charge that he has been propped up by the prime minister and said: "Politics is a self-employment process and I am a self-starter."

Devi Lal, informed of the situation by Chautala, started making frantic calls from Beijing to different state capitals and Delhi. He rang up Biju Patnaik in Bhubaneswar, Lalloo Prasad Yadav and Nitish Kumar in Patna and Sharad Yadav and numerous others in Delhi. According to one estimate he made at least 50 calls from Beijing in his long-distance campaign for Bommai.

The fierce feuds and intense manoeuvrings for the election of even the interim president—the elections are scheduled for May 20 and the overall organisational elections will be held on October 5—have proved once again that talking about party elections is much easier than implementing them.

—BHASKAR ROY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CYCLONE

Killer Wind

Loss of life contained

IT played a tantalising game of hide and seek—hovering just off the Madras coastline before abruptly veering off to unleash the devastating force of its fury on coastal Andhra Pradesh. Five districts—Krishna, Guntur, East Godavari, West Godavari and Visakhapatnam—bore the brunt of the cyclone.

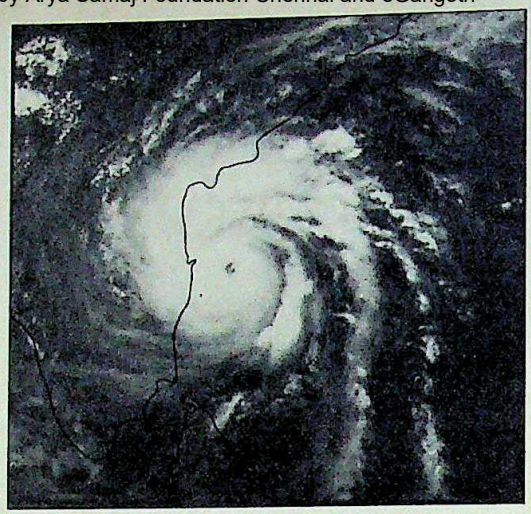
The death toll is yet to come in but entire villages have been wiped out and the crop damage could run into crores. Gale winds with a speed of 220 to 250 km per hour did most of the damage. The major towns in Krishna and Guntur districts like Vijayawada, Machilipatnam, Pamarru, Guntur, Bapatia, Repalle and Tenali, which were not affected by the 1977 tidal wave, were also hit this time. Power supply broke down, road and rail communications were disrupted and over half the telephone exchanges damaged.

But if fewer people perished this time—particularly when compared to the toll of the 1977 killer cyclone—it was partially because of the advance monitoring of the cyclone as it built up in the Bay of Bengal.

Unlike 1977, people living in the likely path of the cyclone were continuously warned about the impending storm—thanks to over 100 disaster warning systems and the dying INSAT-1B. (The disaster warning systems set up in the past five years permit direct audio-broadcasts from meteorological stations in Madras and Hyderabad.) The six newly-fitted cyclone detection radars all along the coastline also sent minute by minute progress of the cyclone's route.

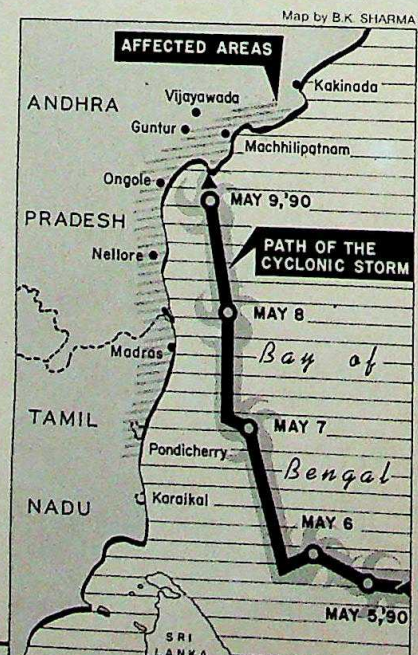
But this route proved distinctly difficult to predict. Pre-monsoon cyclones are normal in the Bay of Bengal during this period. What upset the calculations was that when it was first classified as a cyclone on May 4, it was expected to hit the coast near Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu. Within the next three days, however, it suddenly shifted course northwards and eventually struck the districts of Andhra Pradesh surrounding Machilipatnam town on May 9.

Because the Government had evacuated over one lakh residents of coastal villages, the loss of life was contained. The day before the cyclone struck, Dr S.M. Kulshreshtha, director-general, Indian Meteorological Department, had warned in Delhi: "It will be a very severe cyclonic storm of hurricane winds that have touched extremely high wind speeds of 250 km per hour."



While Andhra Pradesh felt the full fury of the cyclone, residents of Tamil Nadu—which was intially expected to be hit—were not complaining. The rains that came as the cyclone moved northwards over the Bay of Bengal provided much needed water for the parched fields in the state—giving farmers good cause for rejoicing as the loss of life and damage to property in Tamil Nadu was quite minimal.

INSAT-1B picture of the cyclone (top); and the destruction that followed



For Madras city in particular, the rains proved a blessing. In the Tamil month of *Chitrai* when the mercury soars mercilessly, the uppermost thought on the minds of most citizens is how to survive in the heat and also whether the city's meagre water supply, which dwindles dangerously in the summer months, will last till the monsoon. In fact, for over 50 years now, it had never rained in Madras in the month of May and there was little hope of the water lasting out. So when over 23 cm of rains lashed the city sending the mercury plunging down—and filling up the water reservoir in the Red Hills—residents heaved a sigh of relief.

They were obviously giving little thought to their neighbours in Andhra Pradesh. For even if many lives were saved by the timely warning and evacuation, by the time the waters recede and stock is taken of the damage, it could still be devastating.

—ANAND VISWANATHAN with bureau reports

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MADHYA PRADESH

Inhuman Act

A tribal's hand is chopped off

FADALI will never be able to work again. Last month, the 30-year-old tribal had his left hand chopped off (he is left-handed), by the man whose farm he has worked for the past five years. Fadali's crime was that although he was a bonded labourer, he had refused to work for his master and had run away from his farm. According to the terror-stricken youth the master told him: "If you work, you work for me. Or you don't work at all."

Fadali's master, Narendra Singh Kaurav, 40, is a resident of Budha, a village in Madhya Pradesh's Raisen district. He is also the general secretary of the Raisen District Congress(I) Committee and a former chairman of the district land development bank.

In his initial statement to the police, Kaurav admitted that he had chopped off Fadali's hand. But he had his defence ready. He claimed he had gone to remonstrate with Fadali for making advances to his wife when Fadali picked up an axe and attacked him. Says Kaurav: "I fought in self-defence and in the ensuing scuffle, Fadali was injured accidentally."

Fadali denies the charge. His neighbours in the village too vouch for him. Fadali, they say, was a well-behaved man against whom there had been no complaints. And, indeed, the real explanation for the attack may be quite different.

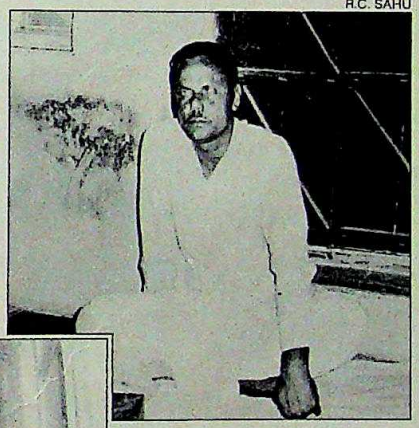
For five years, Fadali had been working for Kaurav under the *halvahi* system, a form of bonded labour common in the area. Like other *halvahas*, he was paid six quintals of grain for six months' labour, which works out to Rs 10 a day.

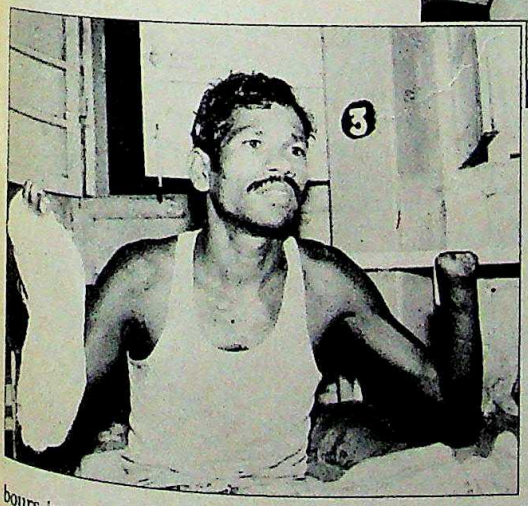
A *halvaha* cannot leave his master before completing his six-month contract. And by then, he would have borrowed heavily in order to survive. Fadali, for instance, had borrowed Rs 1,500 from Kaurav. He could not leave the job until he repaid the loan and he could not repay the loan until he left the ill-paid job and looked for something better.

Finally, on April 2, unable to stomach it any longer, he fled the farm and went to his uncle's house in Para village, a few kilometres away. Next day, Kaurav's men came looking for him and took him back. Three days later came the gruesome attack after which he was left bleeding in the fields.

Kaurav, along with another accused, was arrested. But within a few hours, he was released on bail. And although the magistrate found Fadali's condition serious enough to record a dying declaration, the police registered only a case under Section 326 IPC for causing grievous hurt.

R.C. SAHU





Fadali (left); and Kaurav: gruesome story

Last fortnight, Congress(I) leaders, including state party chief Arjun Singh, in an obvious attempt to deflect the mounting anger against Kaurav and the party, vociferously demanded compensation for Fadali. The fact that Kaurav continues to be an office-bearer of the Congress(I) was ignored.

Three ministers of the state Government too called on Fadali in hospital and promised him a grant of Rs 10,000 and a job. But on the basic issue—the existence of bonded labour which gives landlords the courage to perpetrate such atrocities—there was only a deafening silence.

—N.K. SINGH in Raisen

SIGN POSTS

DIED: Exiled Naga leader **Angami Zapu Phizo**, 85, in England. Often described as a 'Moses of his people', Phizo was obstinate and unyielding. As head of the Naga National Council, he declared Nagaland an independent state on August 14, 1947. He was arrested for anti-national activities but later released. He left India in 1957 on self-imposed exile and had since been in England.

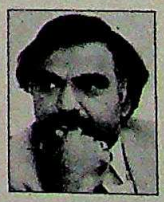
RESUMED PUBLICATION: *The Indian Post*, after three-and-a-half months. The paper had suspended publication after its controversial sale by businessman and intrepid aviator Vijaypat Singhania.

APPROACHED: The Indian government by **Svetlana**, 64, daughter of Soviet dictater Joseph Stalin, for permission to migrate. Svetlana is currently in Cambridge. However, the Indian government, has issued a denial because of the sensitivity involved.

DIED: **Upendranath Brahma**, 30, charismatic president of the All Bodo Students Union, following a cardio-respiratory attack in Bombay. Brahma, easily identifiable because of the golf cap he habitually wore, spearheaded the Bodo demand for a separate state. As key negotiator with the Centre for a settlement of the issue, his death leaves the agitation—and his followers—in limbo.

CELEBRATED: By ex-President **Zail Singh**, his 74th birthday. The high-point was when the Giani's successor, President R. Venkataraman, hugged him with uncharacteristic presidential passion.

RAIDED: **Lalit Suri**, high-flying hotelier and controversial crony of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi. Suri was in hospital undergoing bypass surgery when nine of his business premises were raided by the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence and the Enforcement Directorate. The companies involved belonged to his brother. The Government is keeping the results of the raids close to its chest.



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

RAM JANMABHOOMI

Acting Tough

Government asserts itself

IT was for the second time in four months that Prime Minister V.P. Singh bested the seers of saffron-coated politics. And this time, the anti-communal statement he made was emphatic. While in February, his government had stalled the VHP's proposed march to Ayodhya to build a temple at the disputed land which includes a 16th century mosque, this time it went a step further and detained the Shankaracharya of Dwarakapeeth, Swaroopanand Saraswati, when he threatened to lay a fresh foundation-stone at the controversial site. Nor did it hesitate to arrest 150-odd followers of the shankaracharya in Faizabad on May 7.

The shankaracharya's arrest was without precedent. It was the first time one of the country's four shankaracharyas had been put under preventive detention for actions threatening communal peace. Swaroopanand had crossed trishuls with the VHP over the religious veracity of its shilanyas in November. And had heightened communal tension by declaring his intention to lay a foundation-stone at the spot where a mosque stands today.

In the event, guided and backed by the prime minister, Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav moved swiftly. In a meeting with senior Union Home Ministry officials, he declared: "You give us Central police forces and leave it to me." Yadav placed 40 of the state's 60 districts under "high alert", and issued instructions to district magistrates and superintendents of police to deal with rioters sternly. So, when the shankaracharya was detained at Azamgarh before entering Ayodhya, the protests were muted. In fact, the detention evoked more protests in Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, the two states under the shankaracharya's influence.

The shankaracharya has had a long-running feud with the VHP—and has from the beginning opposed its Ayodhya campaign. Last June at Chitrakoot, he said the VHP's shilanyas was flawed because it took place under an inauspicious constellatory position and at the wrong place. He also derided the VHP for collecting funds in the name of god and whipping up anti-Muslim feelings. He told INDIA TODAY before leaving for Ayodhya: "I am all for a temple at the same place in Ayodhya. But it should be built with the consent of the Muslim community. No temple can be the home of god if it is built with blood-letting."

Swaroopanand had earlier this year initiated talks with Muslim leaders, along with Acharya Sushil Kumar. The two managed to bring the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid, Abdullah Bukhari, and other Muslim leaders to the negotiating table, but the move collapsed when the VHP went ahead with its campaign scaring the Muslim negotiators. In fact, Swaroopanand has a long-standing dispute with the VHP's patron saints, especially the former shankaracharya of Jyotirmath, Swami Shantanand.

But the politics of the recent move run deeper. The VHP, fearing Swaroopanand would steal the thunder, attacked his move as politically motivated, drawing substance from the fact that several of his followers are important Congress(I) functionaries. Observers saw in it a Congress(I) move to split the Hindu vote. Said VHP Acting President, Vishnu Hari Dalmia: "It is unfortunate to see saints falling prey to politicians' games." Countered Sanatan Dharm Sabha General Secretary R.K. Goswami: "If BJP men can follow one shankaracharya, why can't Congressmen follow the other?"

Interestingly, the episode created confusion not only among the Hindu clergy, but also among politicians. While more than a dozen Congress(I) MPs signed a memorandum congratulating Yadav for his bold step, P.N. Sukul rapped the move in Parliament. And while BJP President L.K. Advani and RSS boss Balasaheb Deoras condemned the arrest, senior party MP Jaswant Singh criticised the communal crisis caused by the shankaracharya's moves.

In the end, the incident helped V.P. Singh achieve three things. Firstly, it sent a clear message to fundamentalists of every hue—thereby clearing the decks for harsher options in Kashmir—that no transgression of the law of the land would be permitted, no matter if it came under a religious guise. Then, it managed to assess the fundamentalist Hindu firepower which it will have to contend with if the VHP resumes its temple construction campaign in June. And finally, the episode served to highlight the dissensions among Hindu clergymen which may well dilute the entire Ayodhya campaign. What remains to be seen is whether the Government can put the seal on its secular credentials by acting with similar firmness each time the demon of fundamentalism rears its head.

—PANKAJ PACHAURI

JAGAN NEGI

SHARAD SAXENA

Dharna in Delhi against the shankaracharya's arrest; and (left) Swaroopanand Saraswati

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

1987 - '88

Raymond Cement wins the National Award for Best Energy Conservation.

1987 - '88

Raymond Cement wins the prestigious National Productivity Award.

1988 - '89

Raymond Cement does it again!

The National Productivity Award for 1988-1989

To all our workers, dealers, distributors and satisfied customers, our heart-felt gratitude. Without your constant support and encouragement, this award would not have been possible. Let us take this opportunity to re-dedicate ourselves to a common cause – the pursuit of excellence.

Raymond

Cement Works

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MANUFACTURER-EXPORTER

Fortunately, the global market isn't as limiting as this sheet of paper.

Not when you're the Indian face of Unilever, one of the world's consumer-goods giants.

The Unilever Export Group in India. The nation's largest manufacturer-exporter.

The totality of Hindustan Lever Limited, Lipton India Limited, Brooke Bond India Limited, Pond's India Limited, and initiative unlimited.

With exports that brought in Rs.230 crores, in 1989.

Quality products. From blended and packaged tea, canned mushrooms, branded rice, and seafood, to cosmetics, personal-care products, garments, and footwear.

From 20 export-dedicated factories. And 70 export managers who define their business in two little words.

Value Addition.

THE UNILEVER EXPORT GROUP IN INDIA

Hindustan Lever Limited
Lipton India Limited
Brooke Bond India Limited
Pond's India Limited

THE LARGEST

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

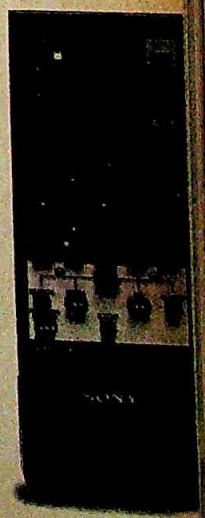
SONY®

New Sony VHS

The ideal combination of multi-functions and easy operation

Get Sony's world-leading quality with the new, feature-packed SLV-X50 VHS video cassette recorder. Super-easy operation is yours with the "Dual Mode Shuttle" Ring: all tape transport functions, including variable speed playback both forwards and reverse, are operated by this one, easy-to-use control. Auto Head Cleaner cleans the heads every time you load or eject a tape, assuring superior picture quality. Super Access Mechanism puts the picture on screen fast...less than one second after you press the PLAY button. DA Pro 4 Head gives clean still and slow motion playback. Take a look at the SLV-X50, and see what's new in VHS. Sony.

SLV-X50 VHS



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

UTTAR PRADESH

Ill Wind

Medical institute under fire

THE Directorate of Enforcement targeted an unusual quarry last month—B.B. Sethi, a top psychiatrist and director of the prestigious Sanjay Gandhi Post-Graduate Institute of Medical Sciences (SGPGI) in Lucknow.

Sethi, currently lodged in Delhi's Tihar Jail for foreign exchange violations, has close links with top politicians of the previous Congress(I) regime which had overlooked many complaints against him. In fact, Sethi's counsel pleaded that he was being harassed because he had once treated Rajiv Gandhi's daughter, Priyanka.

Denying any witch-hunt, the directorate has produced a mass of evidence against Sethi including two deposits made by foreign pharmaceutical and medical equipment firms in the account of Sethi's daughter, Geeta, in the US where she is studying. The directorate claimed they had proof that $ 7,000 (Rs 1.19 lakh) and Deutschmarks 38,000 (Rs 3.8 lakh) had been siphoned off to Geeta's accounts.

Besides, the directorate had seized Rs 4.55 lakh from the residence of the chairman of the SGPGI purchase committee, Dr D.K. Chabra. Following the raids, the dean, Dr S.S. Agarwal, and Chabra, have relinquished their posts.

Last year, two separate audits had indicated financial bungling of several crores of rupees in the import of medical equipment. The reports suspected that excessive payments were made to firms in foreign exchange and the money was stashed away abroad. Besides fraud, violation of FERA, kickbacks in the import of medical equipment, the accountant general's report of April 1989 found "persistent irregularities".

Investigations by INDIA TODAY also came up with some revealing facts. In one instance, where the institute had imported medical equipment from Producter LKB of Sweden, through an Indian agent, Ms Pharmacia Ltd of New Delhi, a telex from the suppliers to the dean stated: "Re: Discount: Our management is very happy to offer you very special discount as under: On Gamma or Beta counters 20 per cent, on HPLC/-AAA/FPLC 12.5 per cent. Other products 10 per cent." Even though the purchase committee meeting was held almost a week after the telex was received, purchase orders for goods worth Rs 40.26 lakh were placed without taking into account the discounts of Rs 5.25 lakh.

The audit report of the Accountant General of Uttar Pradesh also detected violation of FERA in a case where insurance premium for imported goods was paid in foreign exchange to foreign insurance agencies, instead of in Indian currency. The estimated value of the premium: Rs 1.42 crore.

The losses incurred thus could not be estimated, says the audit report, as "bifurcated figures in this respect were not exhibited in the accounts". Among the documents recovered were letters from foreign companies, indicating that the SGPGI officials were given to making 'unreasonable' demands like foreign jaunts or commissions.

The directorate also has two confidential letters addressed to Sethi by Birendra Singh, the then assistant store purchase officer, in which he blamed Sethi for favouring some foreign companies and violating FERA. Singh quit last December following harassment.

A former senior research officer at SGPGI, Dr S.C. Godiyal, was also eased out after he began making a noise about scandals involving Sethi's coterie. Says Godiyal: "Anyone raising a voice against corruption in the institute had to leave." He adds that the services of about 100 employees were terminated as they refused to keep quiet about Sethi's underhand deals. Soon after Enforcement Directorate raids, Sethi refuted these allegations: "We worked hard to build up this institute. It is very unfortunate."

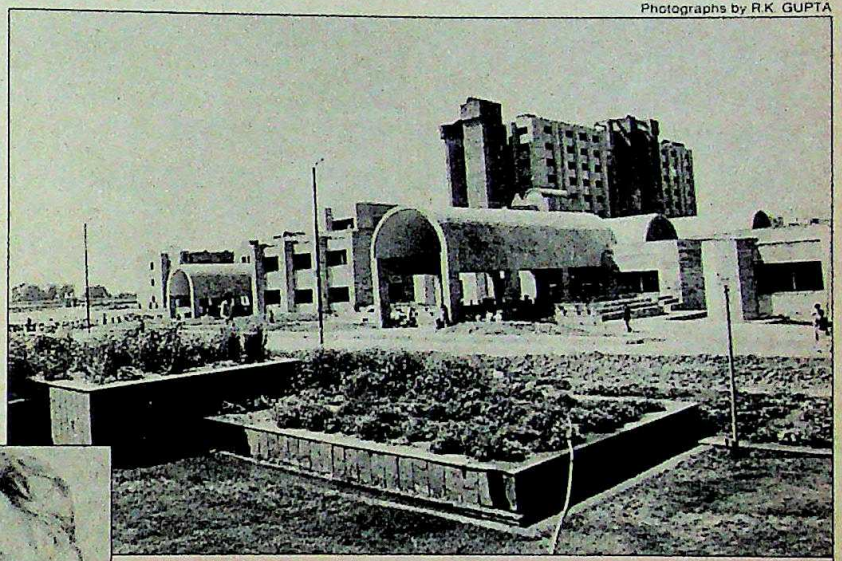
Despite the many charges against Sethi, the previous state Congress(I) government was reluctant to take action against him. And curiously, even the present Janata Dal Government dragged its feet on the issue. Though the local Congress(I) MP, Mandhata Singh, had written half a dozen letters in this regard to the state Government, including three to Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav, no action was taken.

Soon after, on February 5, Jai Shanker Prasad, secretary of the SGPGI employees' union, wrote to the Enforcement Directorate, along with documents to substantiate the allegations.

The upshot is that SGPGI, which possesses some of the most sophisticated medical equipment in the country has today become a discredited institution. Even as it has yet again become clear that even the most pampered and privileged of institutions can fall prey to corruption.

—DILIP AWASTHI

Photographs by R.K. GUPTA

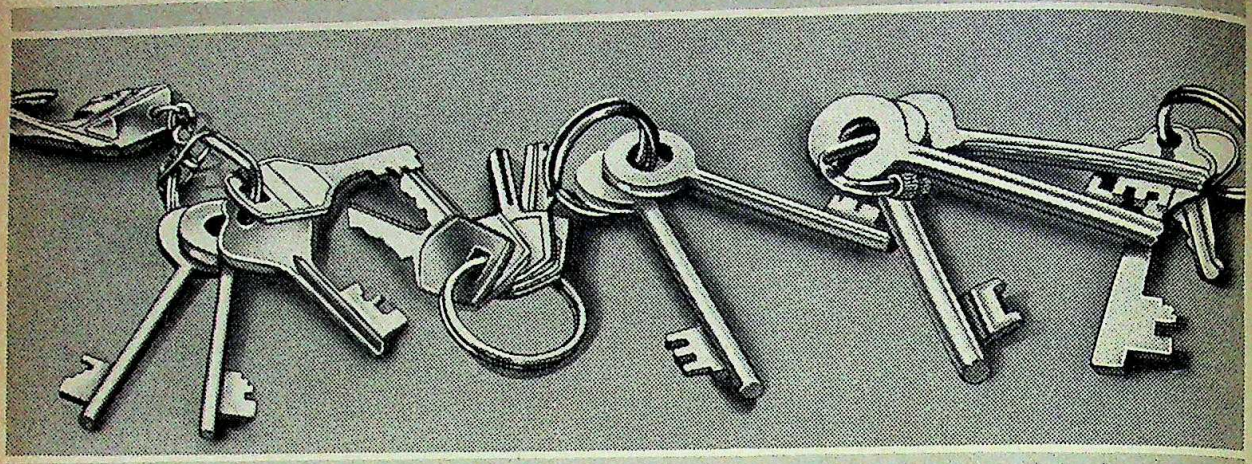


The arrest of the director has exposed a major scandal in the prestigious institution and tarnished its image.

Sanjay Gandhi institute; and (inset) Sethi: serious charges

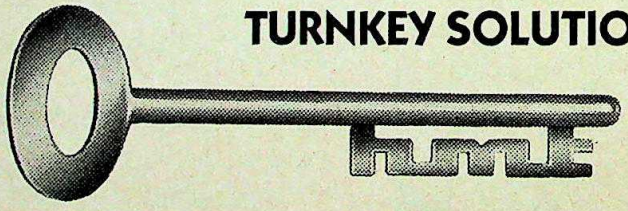
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Setting up a hi-tech project can be a trial-and-error affair.

HMT OFFERS THE TOTAL TURNKEY SOLUTION.



CIM DIVISION

No more running around. No more guesswork. No more anxious moments.

Here, at last, is welcome news for medium and large-scale industries.

The CIM Division: Your master key to success.

Let's say you want to install a new project, or expand your existing facilities. You might also want to go hi-tech, opting for a Flexible Manufacturing System (FMS). Or, perhaps, a full-fledged Computer Integrated Manufacturing (CIM) set-up.

All you have to do is contact HMT's newly-formed CIM Division... your single-window turnkey solution.

Concept to commissioning. And beyond.

The CIM Division will draw up your project proposal. And ensure that it is completed - and fully operational - as per the committed schedule.

It will evolve and implement appropriate Quality Assurance Systems. To guarantee component quality, as well as system reliability and serviceability.

The CIM Division will also provide all necessary software support, training and after-sales service. So as to ensure maximum productivity and uptime.

Get in touch

A number of manufacturers already have. From sectors as diverse as Defence, Automobile, Railway, Agricultural Machinery, Electrical and General Engineering, among many others.

Talk to the CIM Division of HMT. Watch your dream project take shape... and take off.

hmt
HMT Limited
CIM Division
Yeshwanthpur P.O. Bangalore 560 022
Tel: 395829 Telex: 0845-5060

R.K.SWAMY/HMT/14967 II

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MEHAM

The Crucial Contest

Chautala's future at stake, even as Dangi fears rigging

IF you can't win at Meham, then there's always Darba Kalan. If that is the tack being adopted by Haryana Chief Minister Om Prakash Chautala to circumvent the immediate hurdle facing him—election to the legislature—then it can well prove a misinspired one. For only by posting a clear and above board victory in Meham can Chautala restore a modicum of credibility to himself and his father, Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal.

But that may not happen. Round two of the Meham by-election is likely to witness a fierce contest, with rebel Janata Dal candidate and rival, Anand Singh Dangi, determined to fight it to the finish. Predictably, the May 26 poll has begun invoking bravura in the contestants. Chautala declared at a rally in Meham on May 1, dramatically: "I will resign as chief minister if I win by less than 17,000 votes, the margin Devi Lal won by in 1987." Dangi countered with equal vigour: "I will quit politics if I don't win by at least 35,000 votes." Then added: "Provided the elections are fair."

Herein lies the crunch. Will the poll pass off peacefully this time? Chautala has only indicated to the contrary by declaring: "If anyone dares to raise a finger at a party worker, his hands will be chopped. If anyone looks at him with an evil eye, his eyes will be plucked out."

In fact, Meham appears to be preparing for a gory encore. The police have been cracking down on Dangi's supporters. In a memo to the chief election commissioner, Dangi and Swami Agnivesh have protested against "repression at an unprecedented scale let loose in Meham". Satbir Kundu, Dangi's campaign manager, and two active supporters, Sampooran Singh and Randhir Singh, have been arrested. Moreover, cases have been registered against at least 30 others—including Agnivesh—on charges ranging from murder and sedition to theft and felling of trees. Says Dangi: "But I am asking my ranks to restrain themselves for I don't want to give the Chautala camp a chance to say that we incited violence."

Chautala, in turn, has made a feeble attempt to put himself in the clear. He has announced he will visit Meham only after the elections, barring May 24, when he will go there to be part of a procession, "so that you all know that I was not behind the violence".

This is surprising since last time Chautala camped in the constituency for over a fortnight. But the stops are still being pulled out to entice the Meham voter. At the Meham rally, Kapil Dev Shastri, Sonepat MP, promised: "By 1992 there will not be a single unemployed youth in Meham."

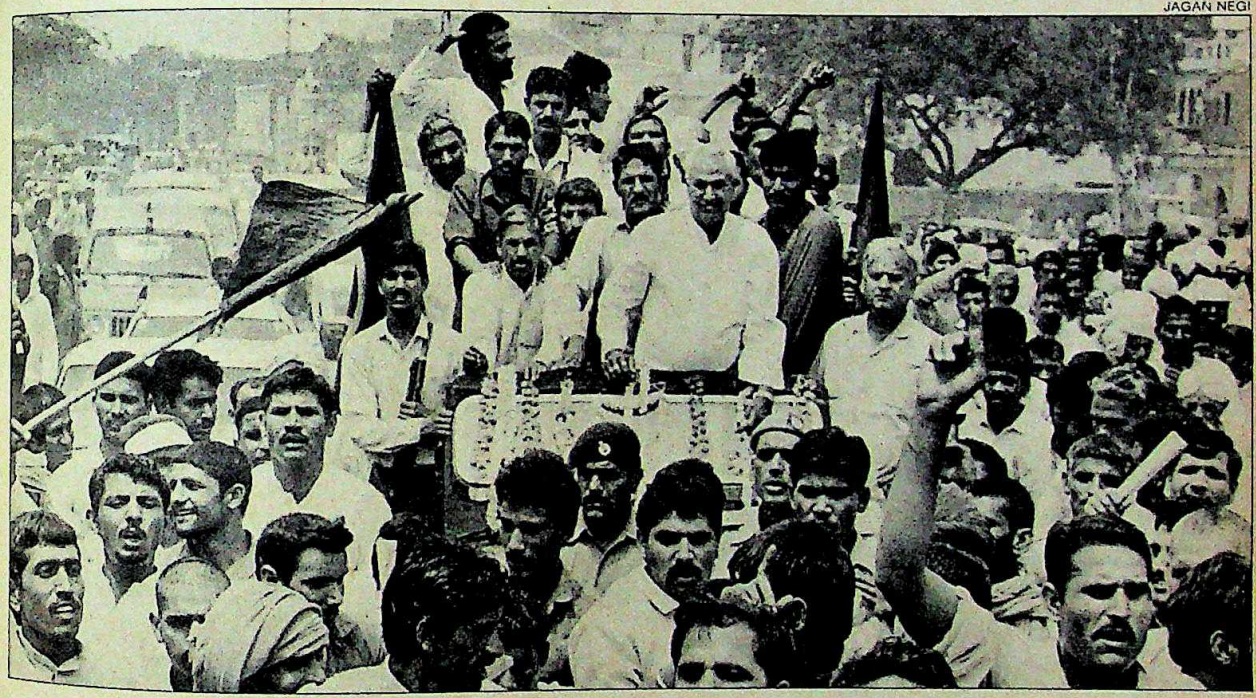
Meantime, symbol squabbles are also afoot. The lion symbol this time is being denied to Dangi. Two unknown candidates have been made to seek it, and as common symbols are alphabetically granted, Dangi will be forced to fight on another one. Dangi's camp is on edge, waiting for Chautala's gameplan to unfold. For though Chautala has been saying that Central forces will be deployed to supervise the poll, he is yet to write to the Election Commission.

The commission, on its part, has yet to announce the allocation of paramilitary companies. Dangi fears that ultimately only a token paramilitary presence will be put up in the constituency. "The local police is all under the Home Minister, Sampat Singh. What'll stop them from again siding with the booth riggers?" he asks. Nor does he rule out the possibility of an independent candidate being 'bumped off' to once again countermand the election.

Chautala's position is unenviable. His almost certain win at Darba Kalan—a seat vacated for him by Vidya Beniwal—will mean little if he loses at Meham. And if he wins at Meham, but by dubious means, it may well prove a victory no less debilitating than a defeat.

—HARINDER BAWEJA in Meham

JAGAN NEGI

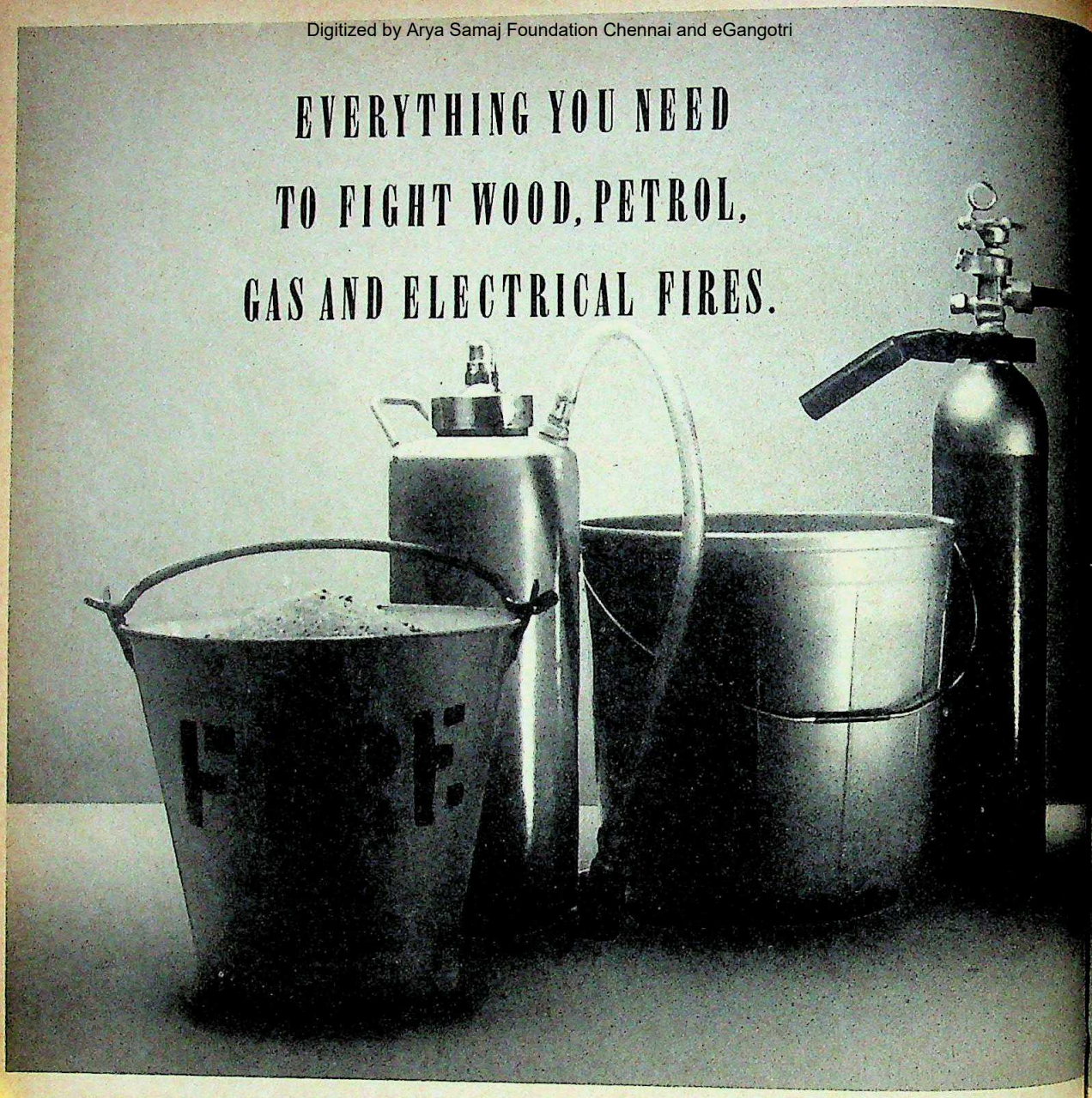


Chautala in Meham: defiant mood

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO FIGHT WOOD, PETROL, GAS AND ELECTRICAL FIRES.



Each class of fire needs a different extinguishing agent. Using the wrong agent could, in fact, be dangerous.

For instance, throwing water on an electrically started fire causes electrocution. Water, when thrown on a petrol fire, only causes it to spread. And even a water based soda acid extinguisher has the same drawbacks as water.

For instance, most offices have B and C class extinguishers, when the major risk they run is of a class A fire only.

Which is why you need Ceasefire. The compact, powerful extinguisher that's effective against all classes of fire.

Besides being so versatile, Ceasefire has several other features which make it the ideal fire extinguisher for ordinary people to use in a real-life fire situation:

Ceasefire is not available at any retail outlet. Our salesperson will call on you shortly for a demonstration. Otherwise, write or call us.
HEAD OFFICE: Direct Marketing Pvt. Ltd., 801/2 Tulsiani Chambers, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021. Tel: 2020[illegible]

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DITTO.

►It's easy to use: just aim at the base of the fire and press the nozzle. ►It contains Halon 1211, the world's most powerful fire fighting agent. ►It needs no refilling or servicing. ►Unlike conventional fire extinguishers, it doesn't damage sensitive electronic equipment. ►It has twice the throw of most fire extinguishers. ►And Ceasefire costs just Rs. 360, one-third the cost of a conventional fire extinguisher.

A FISTFUL OF SHEER POWER.

Trikaya Grey DM 1.90

REGIONAL OFFICES: Calcutta: Tel: 463965. New Delhi: Tel: 5722240, 5730524. Madras: Tel: 612260. BRANCH OFFICES: Chandigarh: Tel: 20152. Kanpur: Tel: 61813. Patna: Tel: 31302. Ahmedabad: Tel: C/o: 79417. Indore: Tel: 36691. Bangalore: Tel: 5[illegible]. Cochin: Tel: 356370. Jullundhar: Tel: 23[illegible]

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CAUVERY DISPUTE

Trying Waters

Tribunal to settle dispute

A two-decade-old dispute could well be a month away from being resolved. Last fortnight, when the Supreme Court directed the Centre to set up a tribunal within a month to decide on the sharing of the river waters of Cauvery, the deadlock on the contentious issue was at long last broken—though a solution still remained distant.

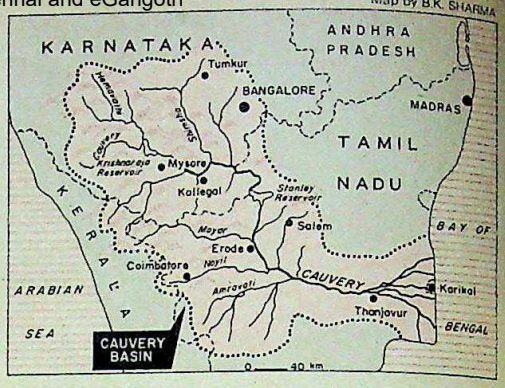
The Supreme Court verdict, in fact, came soon after another round of talks between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka on the issue had failed—yet again. Soon after the talks last month, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi had openly described them as "a complete failure".

The origins of the dispute stretch back to 1924, when the two states reached an agreement by which Karnataka had to use the river waters without affecting Tamil Nadu's interest. The agreement was valid for 50 years and came up for review in 1974. But even before that, in 1968, Karnataka had gone ahead with its decision to dam Hemavathi, a tributary of the Cauvery, thereby affecting the flow of water to Tamil Nadu. The upshot was that while Karnataka claimed that the 1924 agreement was no longer binding on it, Tamil Nadu maintained the agreement was permanent. Two decades later, neither of the states have budged from this stand.

In the meantime, the inflow of Cauvery waters into the Mettur reservoir—the main source of water supply to Tamil Nadu—has come down to less than 200 TMC (thousand metric cusecs) from over 400 TMC in 1972. The impact of this on Thanjavur district—Tamil Nadu's rice bowl—has been disastrous: with the area fast turning arid, crops have repeatedly failed in the course of the last decade.

Tamil Nadu naturally blames Karnataka for the situation in Thanjavur—also known as the granary of south India. It was, in fact, the farmers association of Thanjavur district—known as the Cauvery Basin Ryots and Cultivators' Irrigation Rights' Protection Society of Tamil Nadu—which had moved the Supreme Court in 1976, seeking for

Map by B.K. SHARMA



Karunanidhi; and (right) Patil: contentious issue

ANTI-DRUG DRIVE

The Big Push

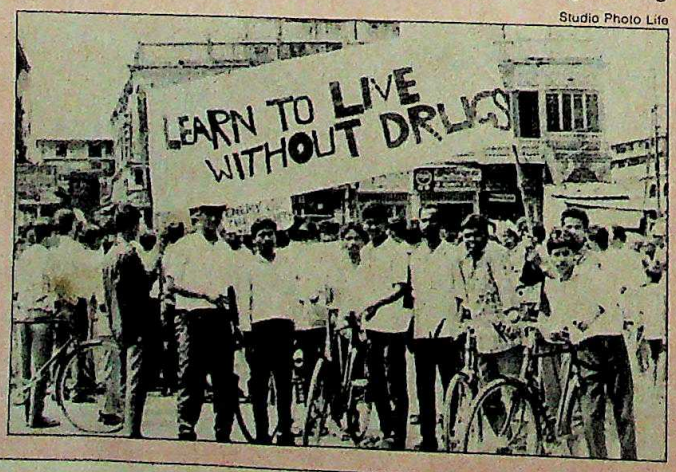
WITH its Lord Jagannath temple and beautiful sand beaches Puri makes for an enticing tourist trap. But along with tides of tourists—more than 15,000 last year—and the megabucks have come drugs. The last few years saw alarming numbers of people being sucked into the whirlpool of drugs, as the number of dens and pushers rose.

But now a concerted drive has been launched against the drug dealers. Not by the police, but by vigilante groups. Asserts Rajendra Prasad Mohanty, a college student and leader of a vigilante group: "We will beat the addiction out of them."

On March 31, the group laid siege to a drug den at Daitapadasai, and as drug pushers and addicts came out of the building, its members beat them up. Within hours, 41 peddlers and addicts were cooling their heels in the police station. Dens at Balighat and Tantikota suffered similar treatment. A regular watch is being kept on the long beach. Now vigilante groups are springing up in almost every locality, and the town is all praise for the bravado displayed by the boys. An anti-drug rally on April 12 evoked an impressive response.

Anti-drug rally in Puri: wide support

Studio Photo Life



"It is a well-meaning effort," admits the Puri Superintendent of Police, Bata Krushna Tripathy. The administration has also been forced to sit up. For the first time, in Puri, excise officials carried out raids and a rich haul of charas and brown sugar was made on April 7 from Daitapadasai. Excise men swooped down on a temple at Balukhanda and busted a drug gang.

The sudden offensive has seen the drug gangs go underground, but the vigilante groups expect retaliation soon. Among those hauled up are well-known criminals like Choti Patri, Punia Bejo, Kalia Chowdhury and Biswanath Barik. But the anti-drug activists are undaunted. They have petitioned the local bar association to refrain from moving bail applications for the peddlers. In Puri, the anti-drug movement is clearly on a high.

—RUBEN BANERJEE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

FORGET IT

ONLY IF YOU CAN FORGET THAT THE LIFE OF YOUR CAR ENGINE WILL REDUCE TO 33%

Oil, Fuel and Air filters can decide the fate of your car engine. If they are inefficient, you wi get dislocated valves, damaged piston rings, ruined cylinder walls and engine life reduced 50,000 km. instead of the optimum 1,50,000 km.

If they work — the way Purolator does — you will get peak engine performance, excellent trouble-free running and low maintenance bills.

So, go ahead, insist on Purolator.
The filters your mechanic would highly recommend.

Purolato
THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING FILTER

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

the Cauvery dispute to be referred to a tribunal.

But Karnataka had all along been firmly opposed to a tribunal, preferring instead a bilateral, or more precisely, a multilateral solution, since Kerala and the Union Territory of Pondicherry also share the Cauvery waters—though they have a much smaller stake in the issue.

And interestingly, while Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Pondicherry have long called for a tribunal to resolve the dispute, it is only Karnataka which has stood alone in opposing it. According to Karunanidhi, Karnataka Chief Minister Veerendra Patil is playing for time so that the projects his state has begun "in violation" of the 1924 agreement, could be completed.

In fact, just about 10 days before the court verdict, both Tamil Nadu and Karnataka had sent delegations to New Delhi to garner support for their respective stands. Both teams met Prime Minister V.P. Singh on April 23; at the meeting, Tamil Nadu renewed its demand for a tribunal while Karnataka sought a "more open" approach.

The Supreme Court verdict is obviously a big victory for Tamil Nadu. Still, though Karnataka may have lost this round of the long drawn battle, with so much at stake, once the tribunal sits down to debate the issue, neither Karnataka nor Tamil Nadu are likely to concede an inch—or a drop of water—without putting up a tough fight.

—ANAND VISWANATHAN

BOTTOMLINE BY D. BUNKER

War Games

THE fourth Indo-Pak war last fortnight proved an anti-climatic affair. The climate wasn't quite right and the ante not high enough. Further, as defence experts like Raj Singh Dungapoor and Bash'em Bedi had been predicting, it was a short, sharp conflict (embarrassingly short from the Indian silly point of view) which gave the Pakistanis a decided advantage. Also, unlike in the past, the Pakistanis, led by General Imran Khan, employed superior strategy. Here's how the post-mortem went in the Indian dressing room.

General Azhar: We may have been beaten but certainly not disgraced. I think it was our earlier engagement with Sri Lanka that demoralised our men the most. Who would imagine they would fight like Tigers? Our Indian Pace Keeping Force couldn't keep up the pressure.

Captain (ex) Kapil: I said from the beginning we were using the wrong tactics. We should have used Palmolive instead. Palmolive *da javab nahin.*

Captain (ex) Sri Can't: I think the problem lies in the leadership selection process. You can't keep on chopping and changing your generals like this. It's just not cricket. Look at Pakistan. They have stuck to their First 11. They didn't even need to call up their reserves.

Captain (Retd.) Bedi: It wasn't just their F-11s or F-16s. It was our front-line troops who let us down. They were using defensive tactics when my orders were to attack. I may have worked you boys too hard that you became soft.

Captain (ex-vice) Shastri: It was the battlefield terrain that let us down. The battle was confined to the desert which was our undoing and the local population was hostile to us. We never expected that. We also had no idea that they had produced a secret weapon. Their new Waqar missiles did the most damage. I blame poor intelligence for our defeat.

Lt. Tendulkar: As a raw recruit, I would beg to disagree. Our desert warfare may have been faulty but we erred in not picking the gaps in their field formations. We were caught on the wrong foot.

Captain (vice) More: I was in the best position to see where we went wrong. We misread the pitch of the battle. We thought we could drag out the war but it ended quickly. We need to rethink our strategy for shorter wars.

Bedi: I don't agree. I am a purist. I have always believed that the real test of character lies in longer wars that last at least five days. These limited engagements are not the real thing. There's no thinking involved. As a thinking-man's general, I find it a different ball game.

'Colonel' Vengsarkar: I may have been out of the action but as an old war-horse, I think I am qualified to make my contribution. In my opinion, there is no substitute for experience. I was a captain once but they don't call me colonel for nothing. I think this policy of sacking our generals each time they lose to Pakistan is all wrong. We tend to get psyched out when it comes to the crunch.

Kapil: Let's face it, we've become too complacent after our string of victories. All that hero worship went to our heads. What we need is a boost. Boost is the secret of my....

Azhar: We have all heard that line before on television. But that reminds me. There is a silver lining to all this. We may have lost the war, but our countrymen don't know that.

Chorus: How's that?

Azhar: Simple. Because of the paranoia over Pakistan, Doordarshan blacked out Pakistan's victory.

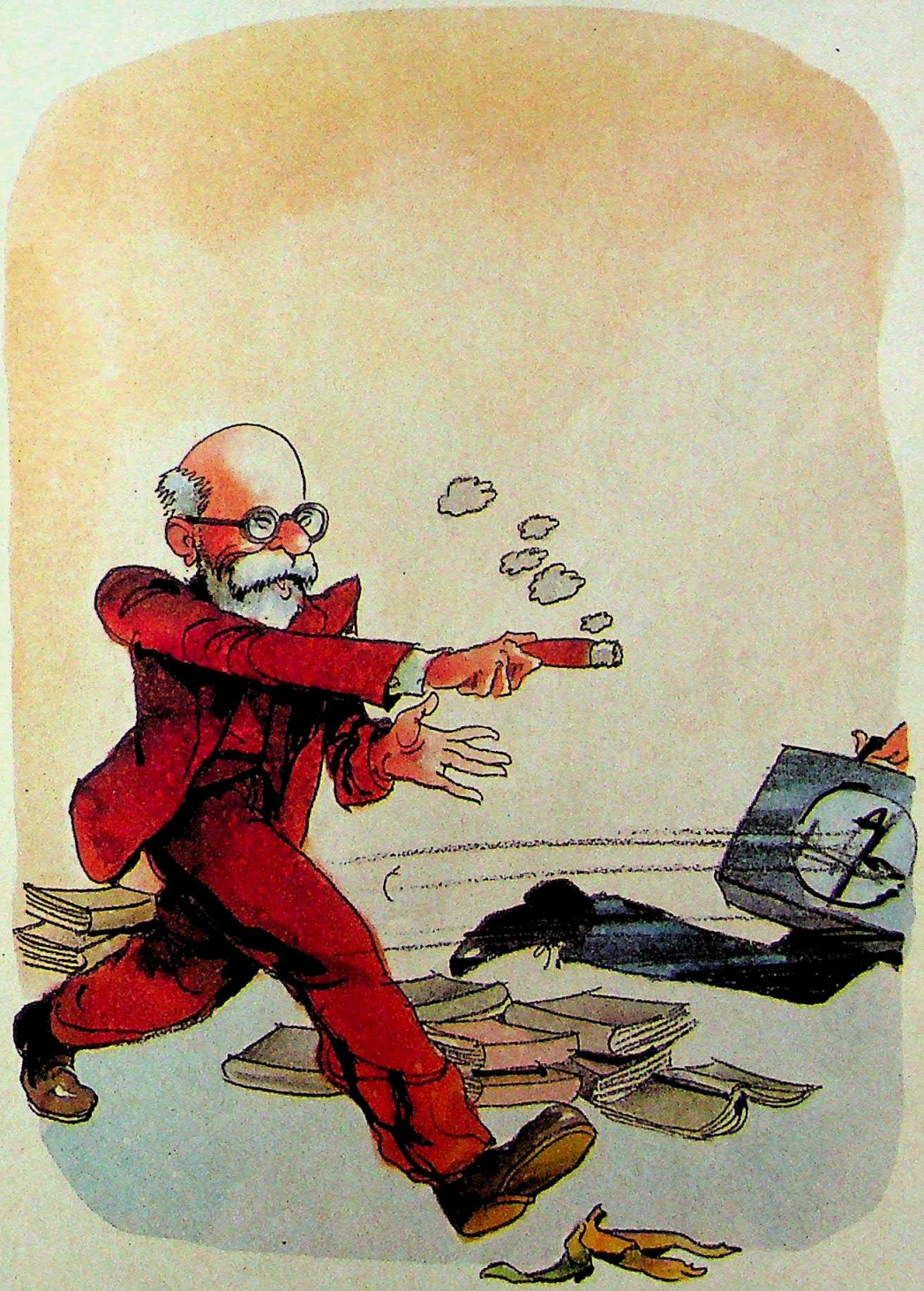
Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What did Sigmund Freud of Germany say to the Skypak Man?

"You move so fast... aren't you afraid of the Freudian slip?"



We'll deliver. Wherever on earth. SKYPAK The worldwide couriers.

Skypak House, Off M. Vassanji Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Bombay 400 059.

Avenues SC 582.90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Asian Paints shares the winning international look.

ADROIT-291/90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The look stops traffic. Turns heads. Invites stares. The results are clear to see.

These are paints that win on any ground... any count. Beautiful, computer-matched shades that have set new standards in gloss, overall finish, and durability.

Paints that have been extensively researched, exhaustively tested and manufactured by Asian Paints in collaboration with Nippon Paints, Japan.

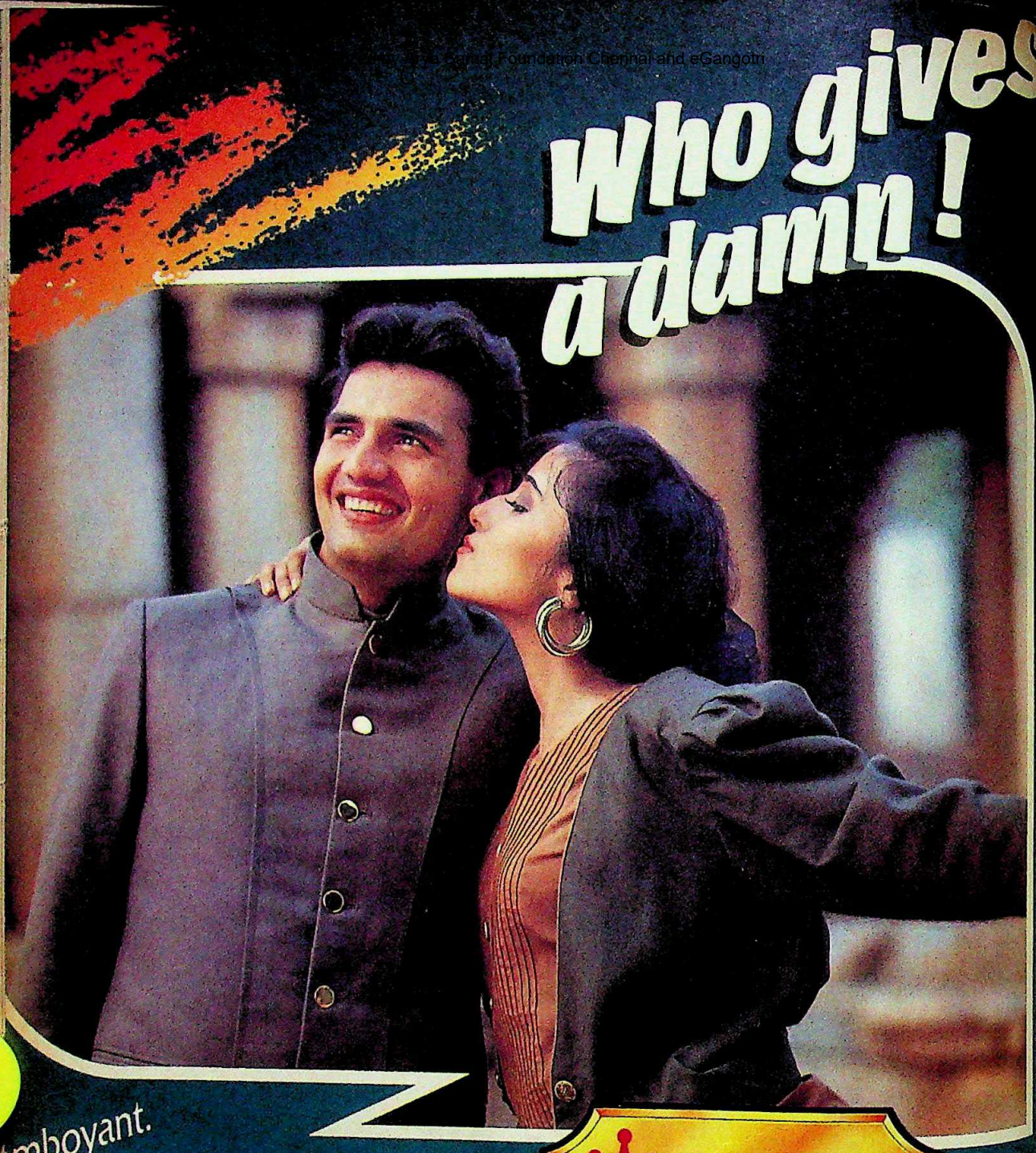
Perfected and supplied to India's leading automotive manufacturers such as: Maruti, Telco, Swaraj Mazda, TVS-Suzuki, Hero Honda....

asian paints

Excellence... now in automotive pai

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



mboyant.
aring.
efying the rules.
nd the fabric —
swal Premium.

OSWAL®
PREMIUM
SUITINGS

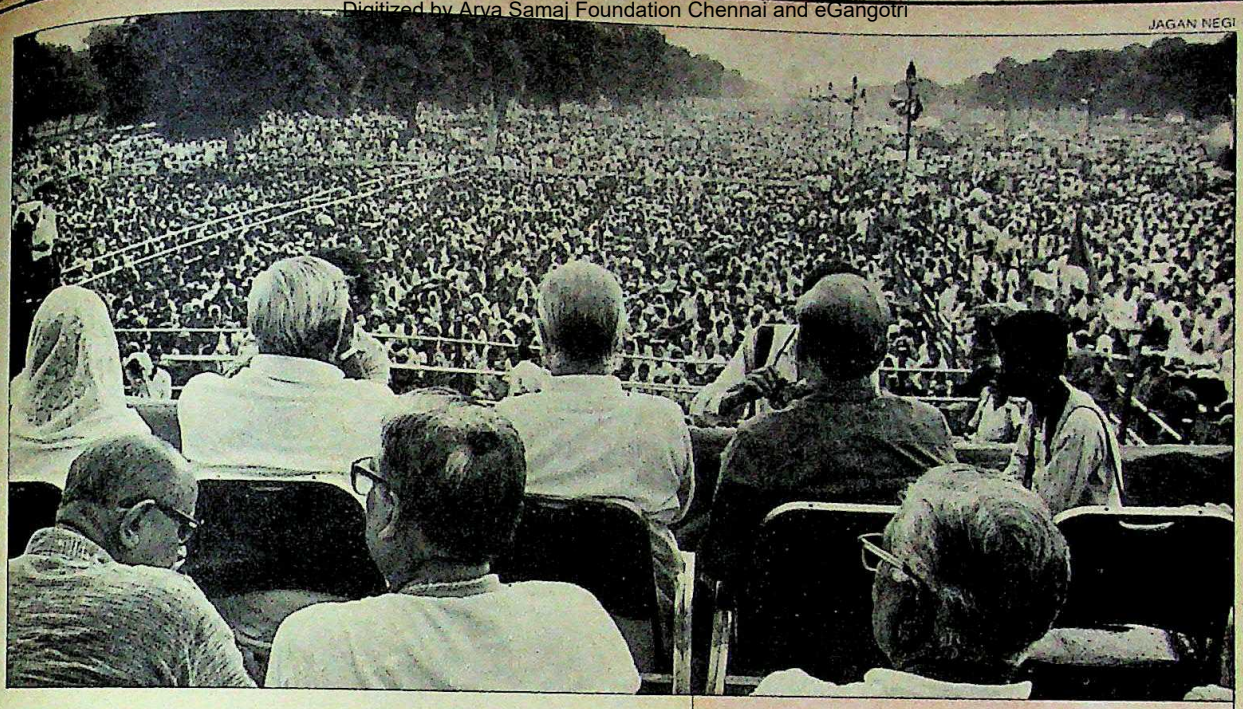
For the rebel in you!

oduct of Arihant Fabrics Ltd.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JAGAN NEGI



Delhi rally; (inset) Bhandari: growing clout

BHARATIYA JANATA PARTY

Looking Ahead

Party readies a five-year plan

THE dust has barely settled down after the assembly elections. But for the BJP, it's already time to look ahead to the next general elections.

The party is preparing a five-year action plan with a single-minded aim: to make a bid for power at the Centre whenever the next election comes along. When that will be is a matter of conjecture. But the party regards a mid-term election as a distinct possibility. Declares Vice-President Sundar Singh Bhandari: "We want this government to continue for the full five years but at the same time we are preparing for any contingency." More important, the BJP appears convinced that in the event of the National Front Government's collapse, the Congress(I) stands little chance of returning to power.

The party's strategy to prepare for that eventuality is two-pronged: to consolidate its electoral gains in regions where it is an established force, and to expand its base in areas where it is still weak. Last fortnight, when it condemned administrative failures at its 'Save Kashmir' rally in the capital, it was also clear that in its move towards power, the BJP had no intention of sparing the National Front Government. Last month, the BJP also held two mammoth rallies in Bangalore and Calcutta.

At its Calcutta session, the party's national executive set up an 11-member committee under Bhandari's chairmanship to prepare the five-year action plan, which will probably be ready by July this year. Significantly, Bhandari is regarded as a strong contender for the party presidentship when organisational elections are held later this year. The committee has already met twice and last fortnight, party central leaders met again in Delhi.

One conclusion they arrived at was that the party's success in making a bid for power would hinge on the performance of its state governments in Madhya Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan and the way these were perceived by the electorate.

Making these governments efficient, leaders felt, should therefore be accorded the topmost priority. Towards this goal, leaders suggested a party mechanism to monitor the functioning of the governments and entrusted General Secretary Vijay Kumar Malhotra with the task of forming an experts' group which will keep in touch with party chief ministers and offer suggestions on various issues.

Some plans have already taken shape. In all the BJP-ruled states, welfare programmes for the Harijans and tribals and schemes to generate employment have been accorded high priority. The aim is clearly to win over sections of the electorate that have not hitherto been regarded as close to the BJP.

The BJP is preparing itself for a mid-term election in case the National Front Government collapses.

Simultaneously, the central leadership is taking steps to ensure that power does not corrupt the rank and file. From June, the party will hold country-wide training camps at the district level.

As part of the ideological thrust, Govindacharya, the low-profile BJP strategist and close aide of party President L.K. Advani, has suggested that the number of party whole-timers be increased from 100 at present to 500, which means roughly one whole-timer for every parliamentary constituency. Like Sundar Singh Bhandari, Govindacharya believes the party has a distinct chance of seizing power in the not-so-distant future. He accuses the National Front Government of "lacking comprehensiveness and resorting to ad hocism" and says that there is "every possibility of the BJP taking up the reins".

Certainly, as its five-year plan shows, the party is leaving nothing to chance.

—BHASKAR ROY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

A literate Indian woman can make her child a more committed citizen - 4

You can give her the greatest gift ever. The gift of literacy.

Yes... You must.

Lord Krishna's 'Avatar' was drawing close. Before he was about to depart, his most ardent and devoted disciple asked him.

"Tell me... oh! Muralidhara, what is the greatest gift one human being can give to another human being?"

In one word the Lord replied: 'GNANO BHAVA', meaning: The Gift of Knowledge.

It is this gift our country needs most. And you should give it.

Especially when you consider the fact that there are 144 million illiterate women in India. That means an amazing 71.1% of Indian women are illiterate. And it needs no written word to explain how serious the problem is.

True, the Government of India is giving top priority to eradicate illiteracy.

But that alone won't help. You have to do something about it. And you can. And must.

At HPF we are working overtime to tackle this issue of national importance.

From the very books that teach the magic called alphabets, to this newspaper you read, all need our photo type setting paper and graphic arts film. Needless to say those lovely pictures you see in them are shot on our roll films and printed on our colour papers.

And then we are involved in the world's No.1 film industry through our cine film, positive and sound negative, which makes us incredibly responsible in this mass media. A mass media that's changed the basic thinking of the Indian people.

Of course, most of the educational audio, video and cine films that are produced in our country are made from the ones we manufacture.

Not just this: Cellulose Triacetate and Polyester based X-ray films we make not only help health care but also serve as an important medium in medical education.

Well... in the area of Hi-Tech engineering the industrial X-ray film, we make play a vital role in precision. Of course, this helps in advanced engineering learning too.

And now with the computer tapes we manufacture, we are giving our hand in the urgently needed thrust in spreading computer literacy.

Indeed, now with our latest addition: the Photomaker - the instant photo booth - we are making photography more useful and popular.

Thus as you can see we are totally involved right from teaching basic alphabets to advanced scientific education - both so very vital for our country.

And then, here is our personal touch. Many a village around Ooty we have adopted and here we are sowing the seeds of literacy.

All this actually should not be surprising. Especially when you are an organisation of national importance. And more especially when you are one among the six in the world to have a completely integrated film manufacturing unit. And this in turn motivates you to prove that you are a committed corporate citizen.

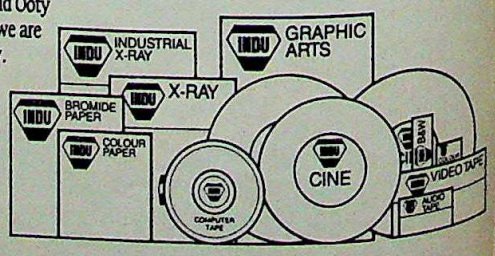
This we are doing. And a lot more we'll do.

Come, join hands and let us make India a 100% literate country by 2000 AD.

We can, if we try. But, try we must, now. Today.

Hindustan Photo Films Mfg. Co. Ltd.
(A Govt of India Enterprise)
Indunagar,
Udhagamandalam
643 005.

INDU



HPF : Sowing the seeds of literacy. Every moment. Everyday. In every medium.

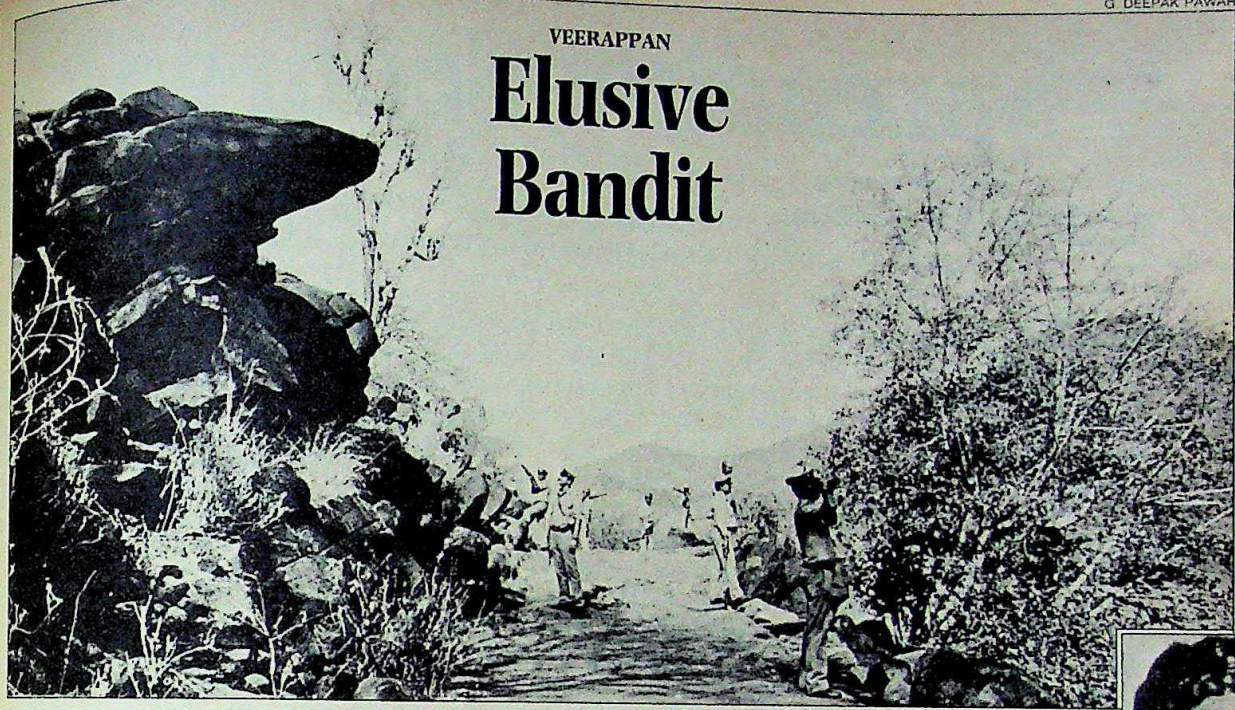
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

G. DEEPAK PAWAR

VEERAPPAN

Elusive Bandit



Combing operation; Veerappan: hide and seek

WITH his khaki clothes, cartridge belts strapped across his chest, and an assortment of guns, he might pass for a *filmi* Gabbar Singh. To complete the tinsel image, he has a harem of his own, village belles to entertain him wherever he goes, and a private army of 40 men willing to die for him.

But Veerappan, 38, is no tinpot bandit. His name spells terror in the hilly forest ranges of Kollegal, Silvekkal, Sathyamangalam and Bargur on the Karnataka-Tamil Nadu border, where, in the course of a two-decade career, he has butchered over 300 elephants and hacked sandalwood forest worth crores of rupees. And whenever forest officials or rivals have come in his way, he hasn't hesitated to liquidate them. The most recent instance of his ruthlessness came on April 9 when he ambushed a police patrol near Hongennakal in Karnataka, killing four policemen and injuring six others.

The one success the Karnataka Police have had in their battle against Veerappan so far came on February 9, when they seized 65 tonnes of sandalwood valued at Rs 1.2 crore. Even that was hardly a police operation. A former Veerappan aide led the police to the sandalwood dump. The police merely arranged for the sandalwood to be transported out of the jungle.

A common charge, in fact, is that police and forest officials are colluding with Veerappan. Karnataka Forest Department sources say that there are no sandalwood reserves left in the state, which means the seized sandalwood was cut in Tamil Nadu and transported to Karnataka. With several Forest Department checkposts lining the state border, the possibility of Veerappan sneaking past without the collusion of police and forest officials is remote, locals in the area say.

A top Tamil Nadu police official concedes the point: "It would have taken him at least six months to hack so much sandalwood. Our men and their colleagues on the other side must have been sleeping." What adds credence to the charge is that Veerappan is said to have been visiting Bangalore regularly.

The accusation made its way to the Karnataka Assembly last month. Opposition members claimed that Veerappan had written a letter to the superintendent of police, Mysore, naming two politicians—sitting Congress(I) MLA Raje Gowda from Hanur in Karnataka and former AIADMK legislator Nachimuthu from Kolathur in Tamil Nadu—as his godfathers. The Congress(I) poohpoohed the charge and Raje Gowda, on his part, swears he has never seen Veerappan in his life.

But villagers in the hills seem to have no doubt about Veerappan's links with the Congress(I). Residents of his native village, Gopinatham, on the banks of the Cauvery on the state border, say that Veerappan openly campaigned for the Congress(I) during the last elections. Gopinatham, incidentally, lies in Hanur, Raje Gowda's constituency. Says an old man, one of the few who have not fled from Gopinatham: "Veerappan went round the village waving his gun. He wanted us all to vote for Raje Gowda."

Mysore Superintendent of Police Bipin Gopalakrishna, who is commanding the police platoon posted in Gopinatham, says the people have fled the village because they fear Veerappan's wrath. The villagers deny this and say most of the menfolk fled in the wake of police atrocities following the ambush of the police party. Some say the police party ambushed by Veerappan had been out on a picnic and that several of them were drunk at the time.

The police deny the charge. But whatever the truth, they certainly seem less than perfectly equipped to capture Veerappan. Most of the officers in the ranges on special duty have been drawn from the traffic wing of the state's police force. The rest are from the reserve force.

A change might be in the offing, though. With the appointment of Karnataka State Reserve Police chief, K.U. Shetty, regarded as a supercop, the battle against Veerappan could swing in favour of the police. Shetty is noncommittal about how long it will take to capture Veerappan. "I am hopeful, let's see," he says.

Meanwhile, his quarry continues to stalk the hills. Like Shetty, he too is waiting and watching.

—ANAND VISWANATHAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DEPRESSION

Spreading Scourge

Mounting stress takes an alarming toll of all age groups, causing unending despair to victims. But new drugs hold out hopes of a faster cure.

NOTHING seems to interest me anymore. Not the chirping of birds. Nor my favourite flowers. Not even classical music. If you told me that V.P. Singh had died I wouldn't react. It is as if my mind has put up a 'Do Not Disturb' sign.

My head throbs as if someone has wrapped an iron clamp around it and is tightening the screws. I feel mentally paralysed. For hours there are no thoughts. No words. Not even sadness. I just feel empty. I like to sleep alone. Weep alone. Just be alone. I don't want to confront life. Everything moves in slow motion. Even talking is a major effort.

Sleep normally makes one forget problems. But now I am up at 3 a.m. and the same problem that I slept with comes back to me vividly. I feel helpless as if I can't solve any problem. I just can't concentrate. I begin to lose touch with my surroundings. Instead of the outside I begin to see my inside. I can actually feel my food going down my intestine; and my intestines swelling and contracting. I can hear my heart pumping blood.

It's an effort to go out and face the world. Even walking is a problem. The other day instead of jumping across an open sewage drain, I just kept walking in the muck. It was too difficult a hurdle to overcome.

Inside the suburban train I see someone gazing at me and I feel scared. Does he want to loot me? I quickly get off at the next station. Suddenly I am frightened of the world. I want to run away. Run. Stop. Run. It is difficult to describe the emotion. It is as if someone has pushed you out of a window in a multi-storeyed building and you begin to fall down.

I am not scared of death. Maybe it's the best way out of this misery. The other night I found myself walking on the railway track. I was hoping that a train would run me down. I just wanted to die. I walked and walked for over 5 km. It was 3 a.m. But some subconscious desire, kept pushing me away from the rail track. Then I felt ashamed: I'm a coward. All I can think of is my happiness. Even if I can't provide for my family at least my presence is required. My wife shouldn't be a widow. My children shouldn't be without a father. I went back home and hugged them.

Illustrations by AJIT NINAN

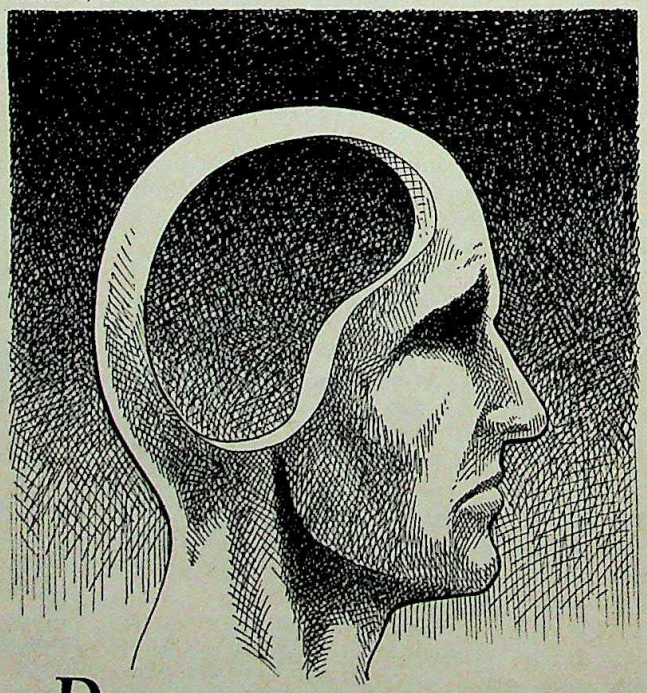
AS Raghu Krishna speaks, tears frequently well up and spill over. The 55-year-old Bombay garment exporter's trauma began when he had to shut down his firm after it incurred heavy losses. Yet when his doctor diagnosed his illness as 'clinical depression', Krishna couldn't believe it. As he said: "He told me to consult a psychiatrist and I thought, he thinks I'm going mad."

His disbelief was hardly surprising. Depression as a mood is often confused with sadness. Even grief. Many use the word to describe their frequent emotional lows that clear up as quickly as a summer thunderstorm. Rarely is depression considered a serious illness.

Yet, as a growing number of Indians are realising, there is a terrifyingly thin dividing line between a normal depression and one that needs treatment. Those mood squalls can easily turn into a full-blown monsoon, howe ing for months, even year causing unending agony a despair to its victims. "D pression is among the m painful illnesses one ca experience," says psychi trist V.N. Bagadia in Bombe

The plunge into the em tional abyss can be trigger by a variety of reasons. death in the family. A seri illness. Being superseded work. And for some even small event. For Vim Ranganathan, 40, a Ban lore housewife *(names of p tients have been changed)* began when one day her h band called off their plan dinner party because of s urgent work at the off "That was it," she rec "my mind just caved Maybe I had been bottling unhappiness for years this was the last straw."

Disturbingly, more more Indians are now fa prey to depression's clutches. Scattered epide logical surveys reveal



Depression is among the most painful illnesses that one can experience. The overwhelming feeling is one of emptiness.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

one out of 25 people have had or are suffering from an episode of major depression. That would put the number afflicted at around 35 million. The life-time risk of the illness striking an Indian is now estimated to be 1 in 12. Like elsewhere in the world, the figure is much higher for women. Studies indicate that depression is a serious problem in rural areas as well.

Psychiatrists are only now tabulating depression's debilitating impact. They now know that it is the cause of one out five suicides in the country. They are also discovering that a third of the alcoholics take to the bottle because of depression. It is now considered a major cause of absenteeism at work and loss of productivity. Yet to be quantified is the 'depression chain': the disruption it causes to marriages and its adverse effect on children's behaviour.

"Depression has, in fact, become the most common mental illness we are treating in the country," says Dr S.M. Channabasavanna, director of the prestigious National Institute of Mental Health and Neurosciences (NIMHANS) at Bangalore. Just a decade ago, the institute's psychiatric clinic treated mainly schizophrenics or those suffering from acute personality disorders. Today, the maximum number are 'depressives'. That trend is reported by most major psychiatric departments.

Worse, depression no longer strikes only its traditional brood of people—those between 35 and 55 years of age. Psychiatrists report that the past two decades have seen it engulf both ends of the age spectrum. It is afflicting more older people than ever before. And younger ones too. Especially those in their 20s and in their teens. As Delhi-based neuro-psychiatrist Dr Avdesh Sharma wryly observes: "The 20th century is turning out to be the age of depression."

Among its victims is Bharat Kumar, 28, who till recently was his construction firm's hottest executive grabbing every assignment thrown his way. The strain caught up with him when he was promoted as branch manager. And a tiff with colleagues saw him slip into a depressive stupor that lasted for weeks. Bharat, his younger brother, says: "When I met him he gripped my hand tightly like a little child afraid of the world and kept crying continuously."

The real reasons for the chilling spread of depression are still cloudy. One factor is that depression does have a strong genetic correlation. People, whose families have had a history of mental disorders, are more prone to the illness than others. That could account for a fair number of cases. Coupled with this has been the growing awareness, especially among doctors, about the symptoms of depression. As Professor S.C. Malik, chief of psychiatry at Delhi's Sucheta Kripalani Hospital, points out: "Doctors in India no longer wait for patients to break up TV sets before diagnosing mental disorders."

Psychiatrists, however, agree that a major trigger factor now seems to be stress caused in part by the traumatic social upheaval in India. Traditional identity moulds are being shattered. The husband's domineering role is under question. The mother-in-law's authority has been eroded. Elders no longer command respect. As Dr L.P. Shah, chief psychiatrist at Bombay's KEM General Hospital, says: "The old social support networks have broken without being replaced by newer ones. Even religion as a support system is weakening."

COMMON SYMPTOMS

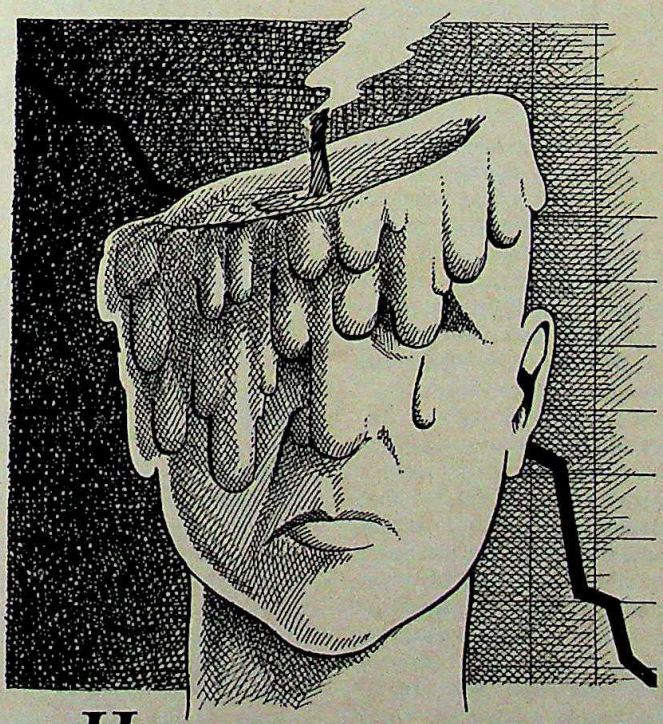
- Insomnia
- Desire to be alone
- Self-rejection
- Loss of concentration
- Negative feelings
- Stomach disorders
- Diminishing sexual desire
- Chronic body aches
- Sluggishness
- Inability to plan ahead
- Helplessness
- Suicidal thoughts

AN emotion like grief, for instance, is now rarely a shared experience. Even less than a generation ago, functions like the fourth-day death ceremony were ideal healers. Everyone participated in the event and the grieving members felt reassured. If one was widowed early, the family was willing to look after the children or help financially. And brothers and sisters were always around to discuss problems. But in the nucleating impact of urbanisation, all these traditional safety valves to relieve tension are fast disappearing. As Bombay-based psychiatrist Vihang Vahia says: "Now you have got to pay someone like me to listen to your woes."

One result is that depression's newest cluster of victims are those above 60. With people living longer, life after retirement can be a wintry experience. "It's not just fear of death but the emptiness of living that gets them. Now the old in India have nobody to look after them and usually nothing to do," says Bagadia.

A Delhi psychiatrist recently treated a 70-year-old widower who suddenly lost his voice. On probing he found that the man had settled his two sons well and even given one of them his flat. But a few years later, the sons and their wives started ill-treating him. It got so bad that one day when he took a sweet that his daughter-in-law had made she scolded him for "sponging" off them. He refused to speak to anyone after that and went into a deep depression.

Others point out that Indian society is moving towards self-actualisation rather than group support. It is now individualism with a



High-achievers face the danger of quicker burn-outs. The fast life now leads to an even faster emotional breakdown.

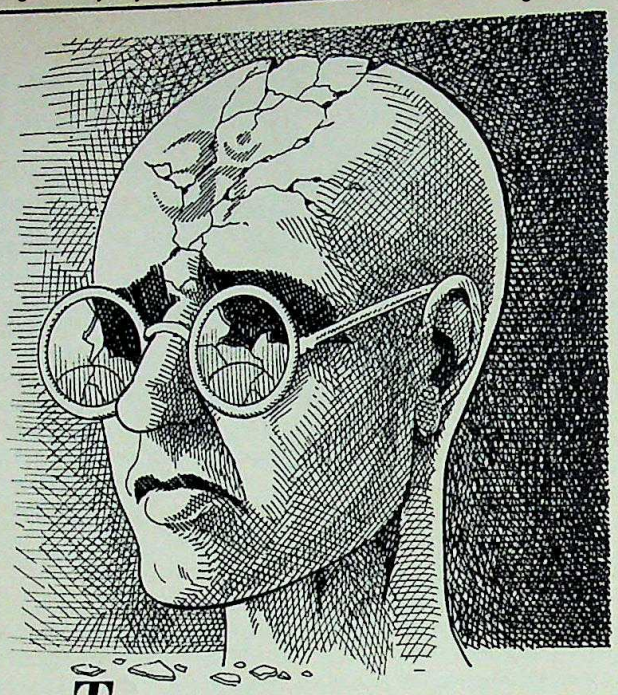
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

capital I. "What's driving this society is pure and simple greed," says eminent psychiatrist Ravi Kapur, now with the Tata-funded National Institute of Advanced Studies in Bangalore. He adds: "As individuals we are now interested in taking as much as possible from society without giving anything in return."

In the new jungle, people respect you for what you are worth rather than what you really are. Friendships are conditional. Modesty is no more a virtue. Incompetence is not tolerated. And to keep pace, individuals stretch their mental and physical abilities to breaking point. "Unfortunately, the fast life is also leading to faster emotional breakdowns," points out Dr A.P. Patkar, chief psychiatrist at Bombay's Nair General Hospital.

The value of an intricate social network to diffuse gloom seems lost to the new 'win-at-any-price' generation. Individualism also leads to greater isolation. As Vahia says: "There's no time for introspection. There's no one telling you when to stop pushing yourself." And Kapur adds: "There's no one to give you an emotional cuddle anymore. For instance, with how many people can you really have a good cry?"



Traditional safety valves to relieve tension are fast disappearing. Even religion as a social support system is weakening.

PSYCHIATRISTS like R. Srinivasa Murthy, head of department of psychiatry at NIMHANS, go even a step further. Says he: "The rise in depression is a fallout of the country's efforts to develop economically." The mind, he argues, is being assaulted from all fronts as never before. Whether it is the rising cost of living and the strain of making both ends meet. Or living in overcrowded and polluted cities and commuting long distances. Whether it is the growing disparity of income levels and lifestyles. Or the idol-shattering corruption in politics. "Under such tremendous pressure, our ability to cope is rapidly diminishing," says Neelam Bohra, a Delhi-based psychiatrist.

The newest victims to cave in under stress are surprisingly children below 10 years of age. Doctors always thought that young minds were more adaptable. Not anymore. Sonu Chandra, eight, suddenly refused to attend school, kept to herself, cried frequently, and even began wetting her bed at night. When her worried parents brought her for treatment to a psychiatrist he determined the real problem: her parents had chalked out a tight schedule for her that included attending school in the mornings and going for a swim and dance classes in the evening. Her mind couldn't take the strain anymore.

Among teenagers, apart from the usual sexuality problems, psychiatrists see newer pressure points. One of them is the drive, usually parent-motivated, to be the best and the brightest at school. Vikas Shankar, 14, remembers with hurt that his parents actually took him to a doctor to find out why he was just an average student. The other is the steady breakdown of communication between parents and children especially among working couples. And quarrelsome parents or broken marriages make children vulnerable too. Apart from brooding, adolescents tend to express depression through temper tantrums and a phobia for school or college. And as Bombay psychiatrist Dr Paresh Lakdawala warns: "Aberrant behaviour like addiction to drugs and alcohol or teen pregnancies is basically their way of saying: help me."

The largest number of victims, however, still fall between the late-30s and early-40s. That's because these ages can be the most stressful. For women, it is a period when their bodies are experiencing the hormonal changes of menopause. Their children are growing up and don't need them as much. And their husbands are usually too engrossed at work. "A peculiar sense of emptiness builds up. At home, the woman no more plays a pivotal role either for her children or husband. She finds age catching up. And the loneliness of it all gets her," says psychiatrist S. Kalyanasundaram in Bangalore.

Vimala Ranganathan's problems were finally traced to the existential doubts she had when she turned 40 recently. She felt her 15-year-old marriage with an industrialist was after all not that compatible. She disliked his preference for loud, boozy parties and craved for intellectual companionship. Yet she

TREATMENT

Chemical Revolution

PROBABLY the most famous case of psychotherapy: Lord Krishna's sermon to a depressed Arjuna on the battlefield in Mahabharat, the epic. Aeons later, modern psychiatrists adopt a similar approach. The past two decades have, however, seen a host of new and safe drugs revolutionise treatment of depression. Psychiatrists now use a judicious combination of the various forms of treatment.

▶ **Anti-Depressant Drugs:** The chance discovery in the '50s that some drugs used to treat tuberculosis also produced a sense of euphoria saw the development of anti-depressants. Around the same time it was found that lithium salts could actually prevent recurrent attacks of depression in certain cases. Studies now indicate that during depression, there is depletion in the levels of certain neuro-transmitters or chemicals in the brain. Anti-depressant drugs either directly increase the effective quantity of these chemicals in the brain or inhibit the process that leads to their depletion. They take

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

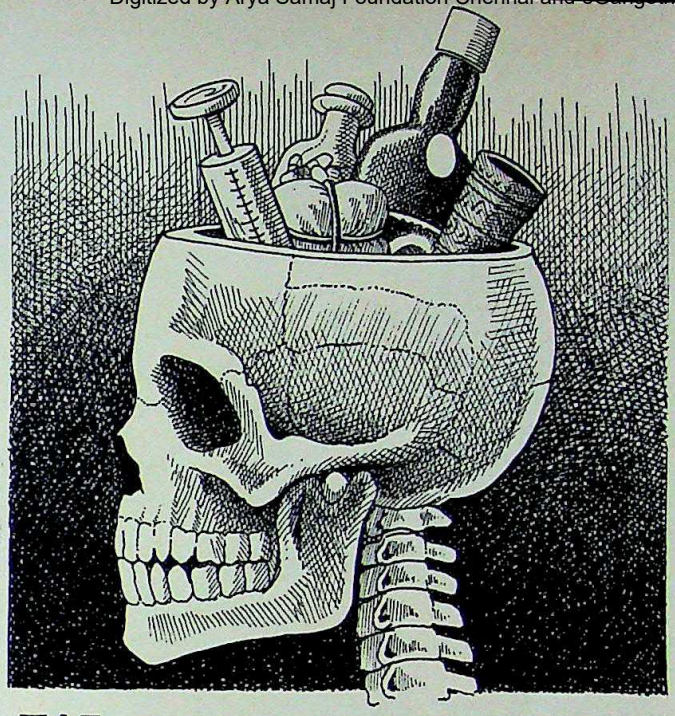
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

needed him for the money and security he provided her. That led to her bottling her feelings and plunged her into a major depression.

For men in their 40s, it is usually work that gets them down. It is an age when success rates become lower and failures stare at you more often. It is also a time when you may find that you are reaching your level of incompetence. And the chances of being superseded are higher. It happened to Rakesh Shukla, 45, a Bombay sales executive, who had someone 10 years his junior put above him. Life suddenly seemed to lose meaning for him. As he said: "It was the realisation and fear that I was finished that pained me most. I felt incapable of fighting back."

Stress, however, is not the only cause of depression. Sometimes a promotion or change of house can be as disbalancing. Though strange, a supposedly fulfilling experience like childbirth can cause women to go into depression. Reason: the woman realises that motherhood is an onerous task. And one form of depression called manic depressive psychosis is preceded by bouts of emotional highs.

Psychiatrists are still not clear why a person capable of coping with stress for many years suddenly falls a victim. Some believe that the constant battering the mind undergoes remains largely unnoticed. Says Srinivasa Murthy: "One day the mind just snaps like an overstrained rubber band." One clear sign of people slipping into the blackhole of depression is an inability to plan ahead. Even routine tasks seem difficult to perform. Victims lose the ability to concentrate. And more than anything else they lose faith in their abilities. "Life's meaning becomes negative for them. And the entire system is on a go-slow mode," says Kapur.



What's most frightening about depression is the suicidal tendencies of many of its sufferers. Others take to alcohol and drugs.

The good news about depression is that in the past two decades a host of antidepressants are revolutionising treatment of the illness. *(see box)*. The major problem now is an extreme shortage of psychiatrists. Although the past decade has seen the psychiatrist fraternity burgeon and now cross the 3,000-mark, facilities for mental health care are still woefully inadequate especially in rural areas. Statistics indicate that for all types of mental illness there are barely 20,000 psychiatric beds in 42 mental hospitals and about 3,000 in general hospitals. As psychiatrist Mohan Isaac of NIMHANS points out: "It is a highly inadequate ratio of one bed for every 30,000 people."

Untreated, a full-blown depression can be a serious problem. At the frightening end of the spectrum is the desire of many of its sufferers to end their lives. Doctors, in fact, treat any talk of suicide as an emergency. That's because depressives are known to be more successful in their bid to commit suicide than others. One Delhi bureaucrat planned a gruesome end to his life. He bought wood, went to his backyard, lay down and stacked the wood around his body and set himself on fire.

It can also lead to some bizarre behaviour. A middle-aged woman sat in a chair for two days without moving. Another person refused to eat because he couldn't feel the food going down his intestines. People even have nihilistic tendencies. One teenager felt that he had no brains in his head at all.

Although both drugs and psychotherapy can take over a month to help such people, recovery from the illness in almost half the cases is dramatic. Those who have come out of depression often feel they have been granted a second life. The mood soars. The mind sparkles. The person bustles with energy. As Nalini Shiv, 40, says: "It's as if every fibre of your body is alive again. As if a huge boulder has been lifted from your head."

Depressingly, as many as one-third of the patients have recurrent attacks. And at least one out of five patients do not recover for over two years. That finding makes it important for people to heed the danger signals of a mental collapse and prevent it from occurring. In a way, psychiatrists say, we have to re-learn how to communicate and share our emotions with others instead of just bottling them up. And also to discover the simple truth that no man is an island.

—RAJ CHENGAPPA in New Delhi, Bangalore and Bombay

month of continuous use to start acting and then recovery can be remarkable. One snag is that as soon as patients feel better they stop treatment leading to a relapse.

▶ **Electro-Convulsive Therapy:** Popularly known as shock treatment, this therapy has gained an undeserved notoriety. But psychiatrists still use it to treat severe cases of depression. It is still unclear why a regimen of mild electric shocks (of about 100 volts) that create convulsions in the brain help in quite literally knocking sense back into patients. The dose is administered under general anaesthesia and the electricity is passed through a clamp fastened around the forehead.

▶ **Psychotherapy:** Apart from giving patients an "emotional cuddle" most psychiatrists also get them to look at their problems rationally. Most people like to duck their problems. Psychiatrists get them to confront them. They also get patients to recognise their behaviour patterns that lead to depression. And help rediscover meaning in their tortured lives. Their tips to keep depression at bay: Learn to keep promises. When you feel low, instead of brooding, do small things like clearing your desk. The small successes add up. Share your feelings with your wife or close friends. Spend time with your family. In short, don't bottle up.—RAJ CHENGAPPA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

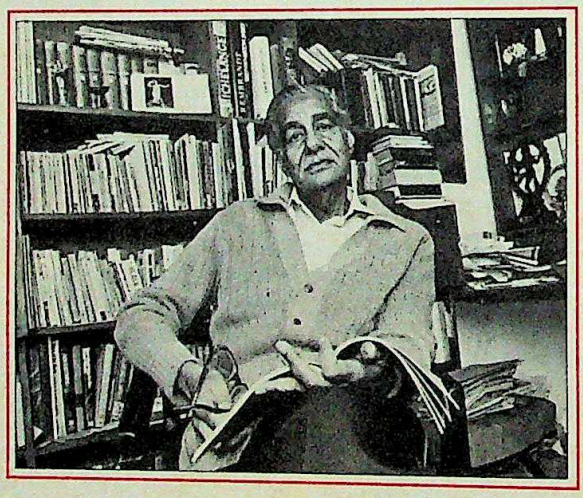
UNITED KINGDOM

Leasing Issue

No house for the Indian envoy

RELATIONS between India and Britain are destined to run on a curious love-hate course, swinging from bitter rows over global issues to wrangles on matters as mundane as a landlord-tenant dispute. Except this landlord-tenant dispute is no ordinary one. It involves the plush residences of the Indian high commissioner in London and his counterpart in New Delhi.

The matter could well have remained buried under sheaves of paper within the walls of South Block and Whitehall. But last month it reached the highest echelons of the British establishment—the Queen—when India's new High Commissioner Kuldip Nayar went to present his credentials. Apparently, the Queen initiated the conversation about the Indian high commissioner's residence at 9, Kensington Palace Gardens—better known as 9 KPG—informing Nayar she was aware that the lease of the house was running out.



9 KPG and (left) Nayar: mundane issue

The tangle arose over the expiry of the leases of the two high commissioners' official homes. While the lease on the Indian high commissioner's residence expired on April 5, that of his counterpart Sir David Goodall's home at 2, Rajaji Marg, ran out in December, 1989.

To renew the lease of 9 KPG for a further 60 years, the British are asking for a staggering £18 million (Rs 50 crore). Also, India is being asked to cough up £2 million for repairs on the 134-year-old, 8-bedroom mansion, first bought in 1949 by Krishna Menon, India's first high commissioner in London, for £6,000. The Government currently pays only a ground rent of £585 per year.

What has complicated matters is that unlike the British envoy's mansion in New Delhi, which is owned by the Ministry of Urban Development, 9 KPG is not owned by the Government, but is part of the properties of the British sovereign. Sources say that if the Government had owned both the properties, there could have been a straightforward deal. Adding to the problem is the fact that the British Foreign Office is unable to intervene since 9 KPG is the property of the sovereign.

Both Whitehall and South Block deny that there is any link between the renewal of the two leases. But with property prices in New Delhi having skyrocketed, there has to be an element of reciprocity in any arrangement.

India is keen to enter into what one diplomat described as a "simultaneous arrangement"—where both sides bear certain expenses and sort out differences over valuation of the two properties. Said a senior Indian diplomat: "The question is over the valuation attached by each side to their properties. One possibility is that we keep what we have and they keep what they have. The difficulty is that the rules are not quite comparable." Adds a spokesman for Britain's foreign and commonwealth office: "We hope the negotiations will come to a successful end."

Like the two governments, Crown Estates—the private trust that manages 9 KPG—too maintains that the two transactions are not linked. A spokeswoman said: "There is no connection between Crown Estates' transactions in the UK and the Government's property transactions abroad. The Crown Estates is not the property of the Government. Nor is it the private estate of the sovereign. It is part of the hereditary properties of the sovereign."

That the two sides are reluctant to give up their mansions isn't surprising: 9 KPG commands a high value on the property market and has been at the centre of Indian social life in Britain for decades. It has played host to a range of dignitaries from the Queen to Nehru and Mrs Gandhi. Similarly, the British envoy's residence is among Delhi's most attractive mansions, designed by Lutyens himself. The area of the two-floor building, built on a sprawling two acres, is almost twice that of 9 KPG.

Clearly, the first problem Nayar has had to grapple with will rank among the more mundane to have cropped up between New Delhi and London. But there is no reason why the dispute over 9 KPG and 2, Rajaji Marg, cannot be prevented from growing into a diplomatic tangle that could sour an otherwise mature relationship.

—DIPANKAR DE SARKAR in London.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

日本の自動車技術の粋を大成

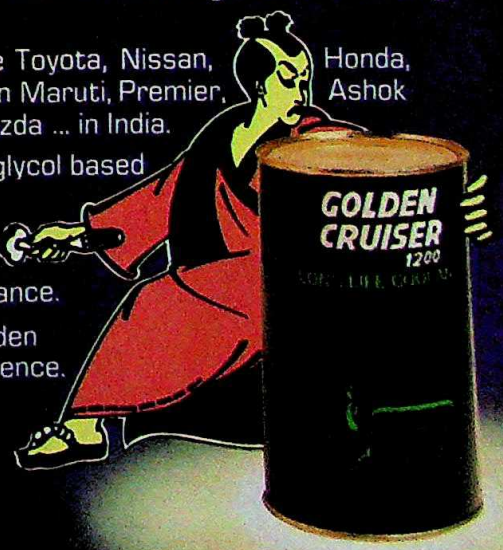
LEARN THE JAPANESE ART OF CAR DEFENCE

Golden Cruiser 1200. Your car's first lesson in car defence. Against overheating, rust, corrosion and freezing.

That's why it's original equipment on cars like Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Suzuki, Daihatsu, Mazda, Hino ... abroad and on Maruti, Premier, Ashok Leyland, Telco, Eicher-Mitsubishi, Swaraj-Mazda ... in India.

For Golden Cruiser 1200 is an ethylene-glycol based solution fortified by patented formulations for the protection of your vehicle. To give engines that extra potency and power to improve their performance.

Give your car the best protection. Give it Golden Cruiser 1200, the supreme Japanese car defence.



GOLDEN CRUISER 1200

LONG LIFE COOLANT

Sunstar Lubricants Limited
Suite 2, 10 Hailey Road, New Delhi-110 001
Phones : 3329649, 3328917 Fax No. : 3313849

JAPANESE PERFECTION FOR ENGINE PROTECTION.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

tail Prices Given For Sizes 85 to 105 Cms. 25% Less For Sizes 60 to 80 Cms. L.T. Extra

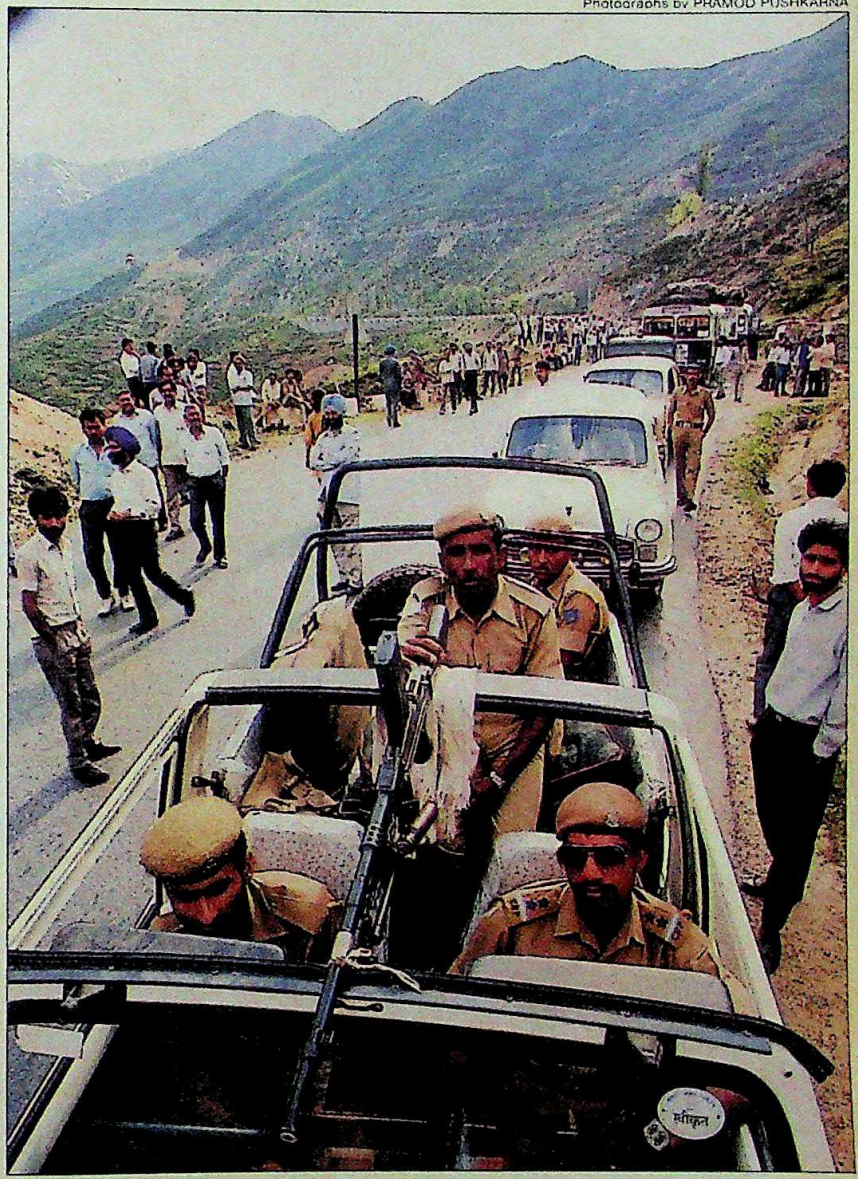
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

KASHMIR

A Defiant Passage

Moving the capital from Jammu to Srinagar was no ordinary exercise given the valley's violent mood. Senior Correspondent HARINDER BAWEJA and Senior Photographer PRAMOD PUSHKARNA accompanied a government convoy for 11 hours.

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



Armed convoy carrying secretariat employees en route to Srinagar

IT was no ordinary Sunday morning. On May 6, Jammu was aflutter in the wee hours of the morning as the 1,000-odd non-Kashmiri government employees packed bags, strapped bed holsters and grimly headed for the fortified secretariat building. The durbar was moving from Jammu to Srinagar, the state's summer capital.

An annual tradition, that for over 100 years has been a joyous occasion, a time for holidaying, when families look forward to retreating to the cool climes of the valley, was this time carried out under the shadow of the gun. Kashmiri pandits, Jammu Dogras and Sikhs were being driven under heavy police protection to saboteur-ridden, secessionist-minded Srinagar from where their kith and kin had only just migrated under threat from the militants.

The tension was palpable as armed personnel of the Jammu and Kashmir Armed Police and the CRPF stood guard while the employees boarded the 35 state road transport corporation buses, hired this year to cart them to the valley where offices were to open the next morning. The Muslim employees, in no need of protection, had left Jammu on their own. Senior police officials, wireless sets in hand, strutted about purposefully, anxious to set the heavily-guarded convoy rolling. As it is, the move, normally phased out over a week, was this time being carried out on the last day. Jawans took positions in the escort vehicles, mounted with light machine-guns, and two CRPF personnel seated themselves in each bus, their Sten gun nozzles sticking out of half-opened windows.

It was 10 minutes past seven as the secretariat gates were opened for the first bus. But just as the convoy, carrying clerks and junior assistants and officers, seemed set to cover the 290-km distance to Srinagar, agitating Kashmiri pandit employees surrounded the Jammu Deputy Inspector General Gopal Sharma, refusing to board their buses. Two hundred of them had not been allotted accommodation—specially arranged for by the administration. "We can't

Anxious Kashmiri pandit employees were too scared to even look out of the windows as the convoy approached the summer capital.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Ultimate Refrigerator from Kelvinator®

The new Sterling.

Stunningly beautiful. State-of-the-art technology combined together to evolve a new standard in refrigerators. Created by a team of engineers whose mission is not to follow the market but to lead the refrigerator world.

Artistic Sterling

- 100% Polyurethane Foam insulation. Avoids sweating of the refrigerator even in high humidity conditions.
- Superior SAN material–Crisper, Baffle Tray, Butter/ Cheese Chest and adjustable Bottle Shelves.
- Superior design for maximum storage space. Removable egg tray for extra storage – a special feature for vegetarians.
- A large Chill Tray with a unique Drip Tray for easy removal of defrosted water.
- All steel construction and tough ABS liner.
- Available in a wide range of attractive colours.

Sterling Technology

- Internationally renowned 'Power-Saver' compressor.
- Cools superfast, makes ice even faster.
- Withstands wide voltage fluctuations.

No voltage stabilizer is required if the operating voltage is within 160-260V.

- Consumes minimal electricity.
- Automatic defrost (push button).

The new Sterling.

It is beyond doubt the most advanced refrigerator ever introduced in the market. With a proven, dependable after-sales service. It's no mere refrigerator. It's the Sterling.

From Kelvinator "It's the coolest one."

Sterling
Refrigerators
Styled in Europe
Engineered in America

Sterling

The 165 litre premium quality refrigerator

Sold and serviced by Expo Machinery Limited Pragati Tower, 26 Rajindra Place, New Delhi-110 008.

Mutual 5120d

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

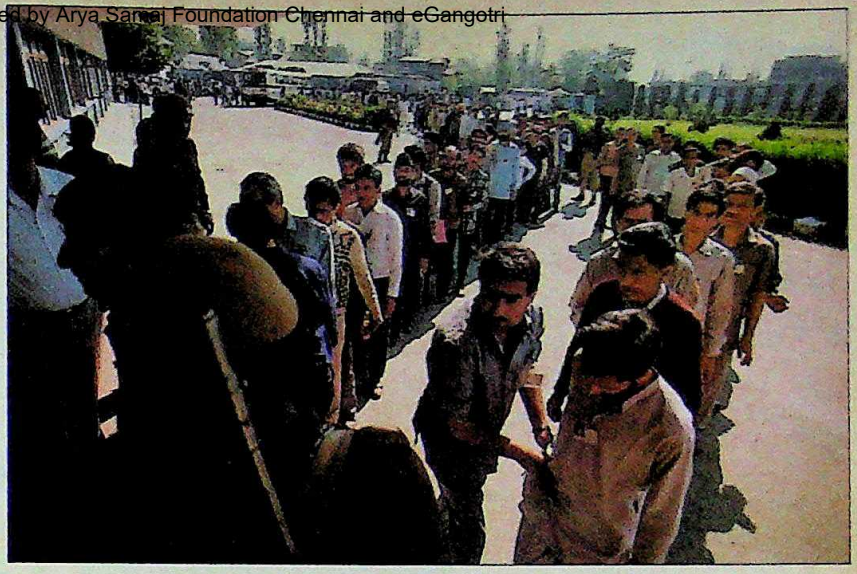
return to our homes in Srinagar. How can you arrange hostel accommodation at a few hours' notice? Can you assure our safety? Here at least we can speak, once we reach there we will not be able to even open our mouths," they screamed.

THE high-tension drama that continued for the next one-and-a-half-hours was something the security officials couldn't afford. Curfew would be clamped on Srinagar at the dot of five and there were strict instructions that the employees be within the safe confines of their hotel rooms before dark. The pandits, however, sat on a dharna refusing to let even a single bus budge unless they were assured of safe accommodation. Harassed officials rushed to the telephone to contact Srinagar as angry employees accused the administration. "Call your force and open fire on us here itself. We are not offering ourselves to militants," they shouted.

The drama ended when word came in from Srinagar that the convoy would be received at the bypass and everyone safely escorted to their hostels and hotels. It was 8.40 a.m. when the convoy members bid a reluctant farewell to their families, the women and children holding back tears with difficulty. The employees themselves were a scared lot. "The terrorists have now acquired Stinger missiles and rocket launchers," they murmured as they settled back in their seats for the 10-hour journey.

The journey from Jammu to Banihal was a relatively relaxed drive, for, as the employees said: *"Yeh to hamara elaka hai"* (This is our territory.) All police stations en route to Srinagar had been alerted and police jeeps whizzed past the buses at Udhampur, 55 km from Jammu, as the employees halted for refreshments at roadside restaurants. It was time for lunch when the convoy reached Batote and once again the CRPF jawans kept guard while government staffers dug into their food, platefuls of 'dal fry', vegetable curry and rotis.

The picnic-like atmosphere, men queueing up outside wine shops to buy their liquor stocks and the sheer pleasure of driving along the hilly, zigzag road came to a sudden end as the convoy passed through the 3-km-long Banihal tunnel. 'Kashmir valley begins' signalled a signpost and it was almost as if fear crept back into their bones. The buses, which were earlier trundling along leisurely, now came within bumper to bumper distance. It was here that the Kashmiri Muslim employees had on their way back raised slogans of *'Hindustan murdabad'* and *'Azadi zindabad'*.



Government employees being frisked outside the Srinagar secretariat

Where usually they had been greeted by welcome banners and friendly crowds, employees found Srinagar's streets lined by armed jawans.

Anxious family members in Jammu with Srinagar-bound relatives

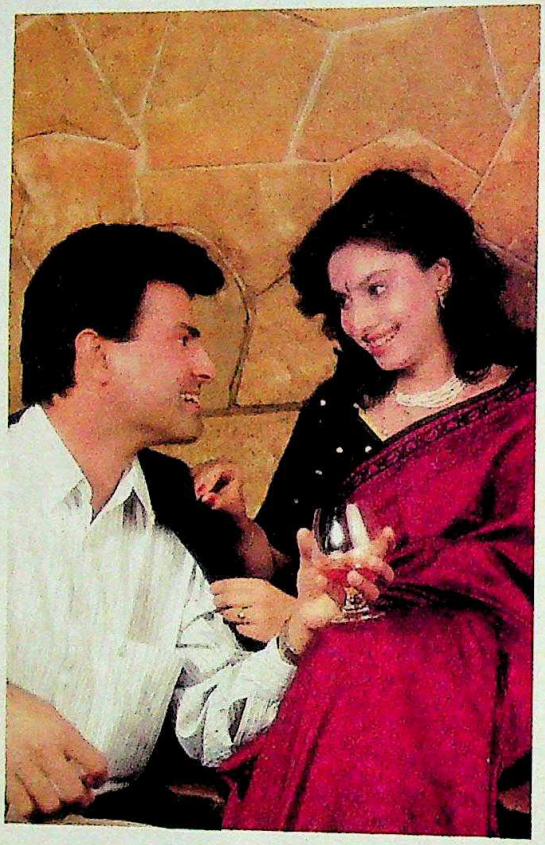
'Jammu and Kashmir Liberation Force territory' was painted on virtually every signboard and *dhaba* walls and their flags were fluttering atop slanting tiled roofs.

It was a test of might between the administration and the militants. Said Governor Jagmohan: "Our capacity and courage were under test. It was a part of my strategy to assert the authority of the state in no uncertain way. No one can strike terror and stop us from discharging our normal administrative obligations." Office timings have been adjusted for the employees. Curfew is now relaxed between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. and the working hours—normally 10 to 5—have been changed to 9 to 4 so that they can return to their hotels well before it is dark. Ten minutes to 9 and the buses queue up outside the hostels to take the employees to the secretariat. There, they

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Now your business trip to another city can have that "home-coming" feeling.



*We'll fly your wife out to join you for the week-end.**

As a successful executive you keep your corporation ahead of yourself. And this usually implies a good deal of travel away from home, including some precious week-ends.

Which is why we've come up with an idea that can best be described as "home-coming" — away from home.

What we'll do is to fly your wife out to join you. For the week-end at the Executive Club. It's the kind of holiday she'll really enjoy.

So the next time you jet out to the Executive Club at Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore or Madras, get together with your wife. For the week-end.

*We'll reimburse her actual travel fares to a maximum of Rs. 2,000/- (depending on the length of the week-end stay, and the city of visit).

WELCOMGROUP

Welcomgroup's special privilege for the discerning business traveller.

* **For details** and bookings, call Welcomnet, Welcomgroup Hotels' Instant Reservation Network. Or the Reservations Office at any Welcomgroup hotel.

HTA 6766A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Siddhanta eGangotri

are thoroughly frisked, their identity cards prominently displayed on their shirt pockets. A metal detector check and they are then confined to the secretariat premises till 4 p.m. No employee is allowed to leave till then. Lunch is served in the secretariat, specially provided for by the state administration, catered by the Jammu and Kashmir Tourist Development Corporation.

ALL roads leading to the secretariat are sealed and before evening the building is subjected to a close check, sniffer dogs put into operation in all five floors. The buses too are parked in the under-construction legislative assembly building compound just opposite the secretariat. No briefcases or handbags are allowed inside. The occasional visitors, mostly media persons, too go in only after noon and after they've passed the various security checks.

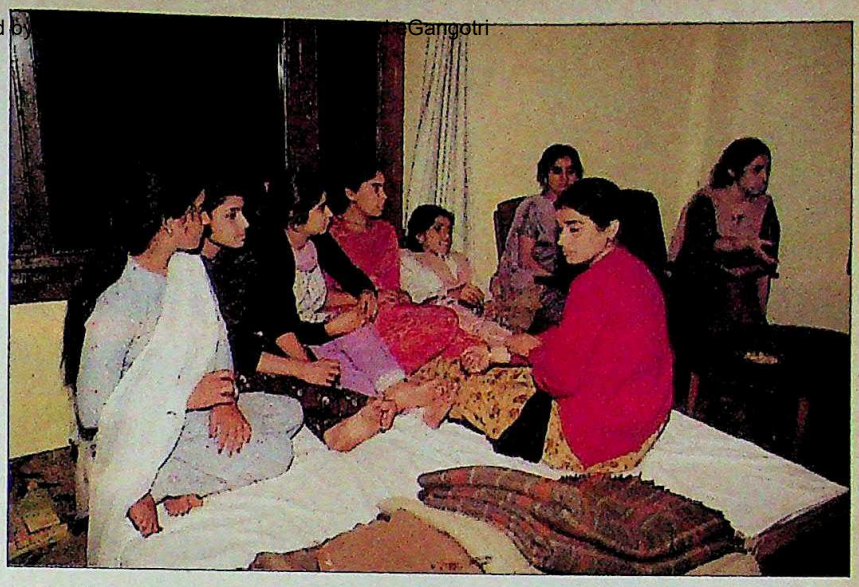
Four in the evening and it is the same grind again. Buses drive the Hindu employees back to their hostels—their 'prisons' which they can't leave till nine the next morning. Once again they pass through metal detectors and sign the register where they enter their identity card numbers. Food is served to them in their rooms. And the only visitors are senior state officials calling in to see if they are comfortable and if the security guards are alert on their jobs.

The threat to the employees is grave. "One kidnapping or killing and the employees will rush back to Jammu," points out a senior police official. Security forces have tried to plug all loopholes, even instructed the staff to always keep their buckets filled with water, in case of arson, but then as the officials themselves admit, it is difficult to guard against a grenade being hurled.

The administration has undoubtedly won the round against the militants by safely transporting the employees and successfully reopening offices. But for how long can the staff live like prisoners, under the keen eye of the security forces and under threat from the militants? Where life in the valley comes to a grinding halt, as it did on May 7 when militants gave a call for civil curfew, keeping even the government transport services off the roads—the transport staff refusing to report to work.

A large number of pandits were already, within one day of joining work, talking of returning to Jammu. Most had been sent by their parents on the assurance that they'd mark attendance and return home on leave. But to how many employees can the Government sanction leave? Archna and Dilip Kharoo are not the only ones who say they'll go back to Jammu even if it means losing their jobs. There is not a single pandit government employee whose family has not migrated from the valley. Pinki Khabri perhaps summed up the mood when she said: "Our property is not safe, how can we be secure about our lives?" A question many are asking.

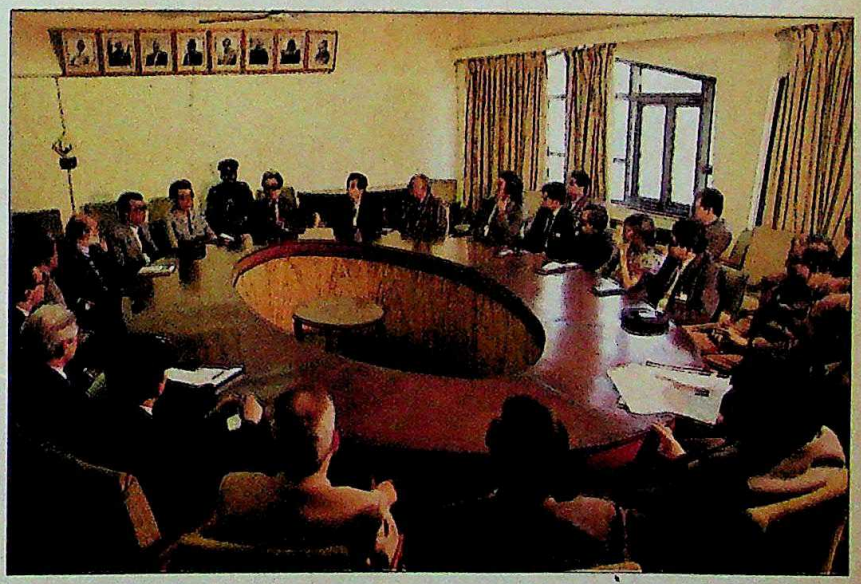
And the capital has only just moved. A full six months lie ahead when the Government will be put to test. The governor is confident that with the moving of the durbar, the state has entered an important phase of what he calls, "the normalisation of conditions in the state". "Our job is to remain cool and face the current challenge with fortitude," he says. A challenge, it certainly is. In fact, a daunting one as the militants will do the utmost to fight the might of the state.



Women government employees huddle in a hotel room in Srinagar

The administration did succeed in shifting the Government to Srinagar. But clearly, officials cannot live forever under a shroud of security.

Governor Jagmohan in a meeting with senior officials at Srinagar



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

tized b ation Che

RX100

YAMA

RX100
AUTHENTIC
YAMAHA

CORTS

AH

ri Collection, Haridwar

zed by a Sama angotri

A H A

RIDE THE
INTERNATIONAL
FAVOURITE

AHEAD OF THE 100'S

HEADSTART FN

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MALANPUR

Corporate Craze

Lured by incentives, cheap labour and locational advantages, scores of companies are flocking to a tiny village near Gwalior.

THE road that links Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh to Etawah in Uttar Pradesh is a dreary one. For mile after mile, all that can be seen are stretches of barren, rocky wasteland. Occasionally, fields of wheat and bajra break the monotony. Nothing could seem more ordinary. Then, suddenly, out of nowhere, a gun-toting horseman gallops onto the road, crosses it and passes out of sight, a stark reminder that the region is no ordinary land but the stuff of hoary legends, the home of the Chambal dacoits.

Eighteen kilometres from Gwalior, the land springs another surprise: a booming industrial estate in the middle of nowhere, consisting of more than 40 large and small factories. In the Chambal landscape, it is an incongruous sight, almost as if the bajra fields had, in a fit of madness, decided to sprout a concrete crop.

Welcome to Malanpur. Just six years ago, it was a sleepy hamlet of less than a thousand inhabitants who struggled to coax a meagre crop out of an unfriendly soil. The gun was a status symbol here and the dacoits of Chambal held sway.

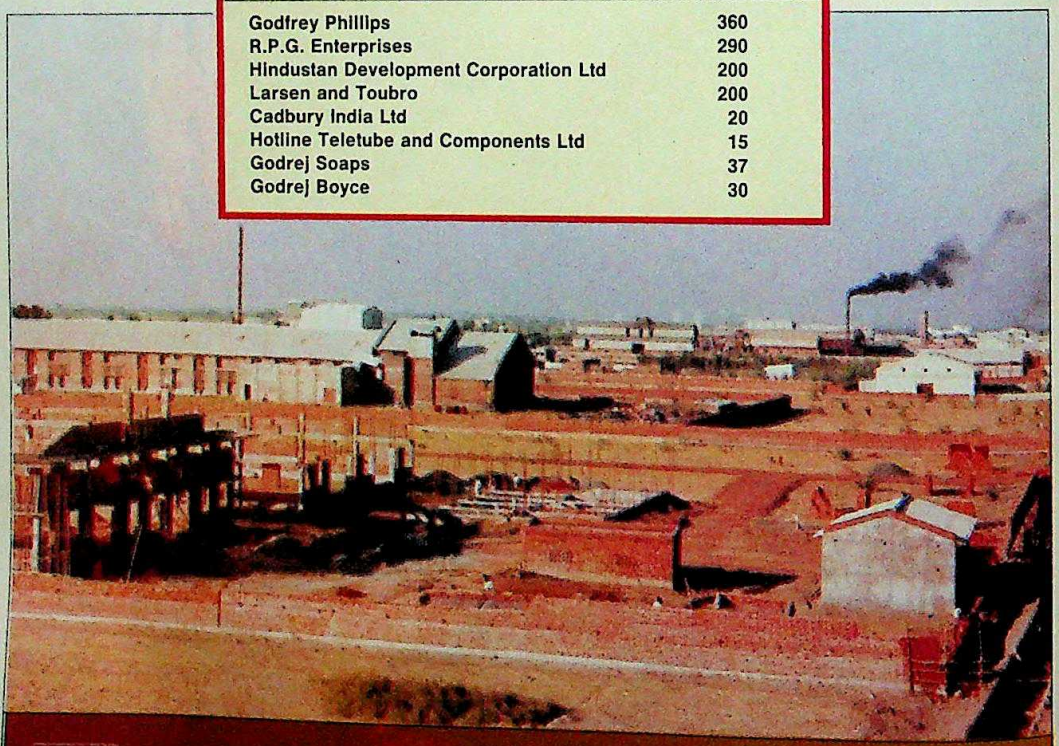
Today, all that has changed. The sound of gunshots has been replaced by the clatter of machinery. Land prices have skyrocketed. The population has increased fivefold in the past two years—from 2,000 to 10,000. Already, the village has attracted corporate investments worth Rs 1,300 crore. And more companies are flocking to set up shop. Says a beaming R.W. Shrivastava, managing director of the state industrial agency, the Madhya Pradesh Audyogik Kendra Vikas Nigam (Gwalior) Ltd (MPAKVN): "We are sure of getting another Rs 4,000 crore investment in the next two years."

That is no idle boast. Some examples of current corporate investments:

- The Modis are investing Rs 360 crore in a joint sector polyester filament yarn project to manufacture speciality fibres
- RPG Enterprises is all set to begin construction of a

MAJOR COMPANIES IN MALANPUR

	Investments in Rs Crore
Godfrey Phillips	360
R.P.G. Enterprises	290
Hindustan Development Corporation Ltd	200
Larsen and Toubro	200
Cadbury India Ltd	20
Hotline Teletube and Components Ltd	15
Godrej Soaps	37
Godrej Boyce	30



Over a period of just four years, Malanpur has attracted corporate investments worth Rs 1,300 crore. And in the next two years, the Government expects companies to invest another Rs 4,000 crore.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by SHARAD SAXENA

Paras Gangwal, chairman of a yarn-manufacturing company, found Malanpur's proximity to markets like Mathura and Kanpur a major attraction.

Rs 290-crore nylon tyre cord plant.

▸ The Calcutta-based Hindustan Development Corporation is putting up a Rs 200-crore mini steel plant.

▸ The Godrej group is, for the first time, setting up a soap and detergents factory outside Maharashtra at a cost of Rs 37 crore and investing Rs 30 crore in a refrigerator plant.

▸ Engineering giant Larsen & Toubro is finalising plans to set up a unit to produce plastic moulded goods and glass containers. The investment: Rs 200 crore.

▸ Cadbury has set up a Rs 10-crore chocolate plant and intends to invest an equal amount in expanding it.

▸ And companies like Crompton Greaves and the Delhi-based Hotline Teletube have also moved in.

For Malanpur, all this has meant a dramatic change. And much more is in the offing. The new investments are expected to generate as many as 1 lakh new jobs, most of them through ancillaries. To take two examples, Cadbury is toying with the idea of establishing packaging units to meet its own needs, and the Modis plan to encourage 50 new ancillaries involving a total investment of Rs 150 crore.

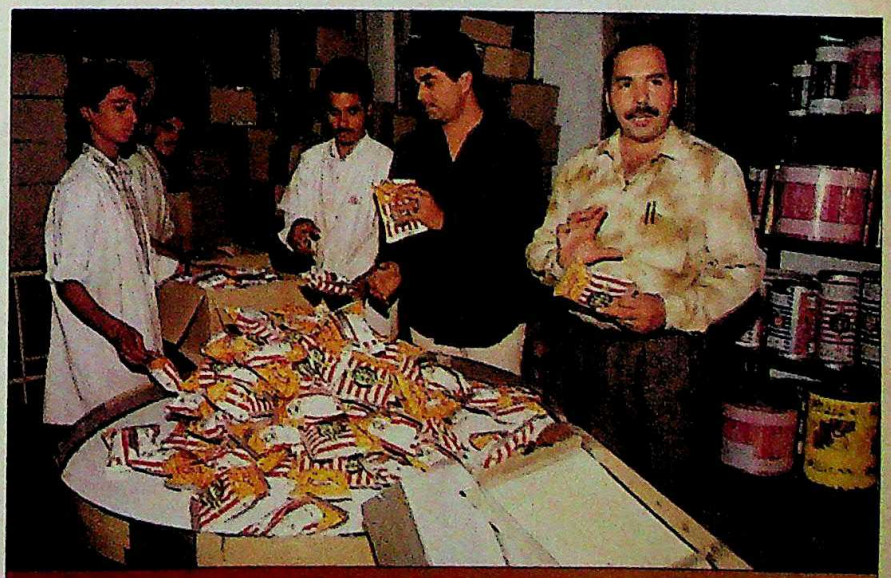
To cater to the corporate rush, MPAKVN is acquiring more land. Four years ago, the agency had cautiously bought up 150 hectares. Today, the figure is up to 1,000 hectares and still insufficient. The state Government is also pumping in Rs 41 crore to develop infrastructural facilities. Plans have been finalised to lay a new broad gauge railway line between Gwalior and Malanpur. And on the anvil is a proposal to tap power from the gas-based power plant to be set up in Guna, a hundred kilometres away.

Why the sudden rush to Malanpur? The principal reason is, of course, that the Madhya Pradesh Government peddled the idea effectively, trumpeting the advantages of abundant power and cheap labour. Companies were assured licences, and clearances came through at double-quick pace. Says Sanjeev Goenka, vice-chairman of RPG Enterprises: "The state Government is very responsive. We got all our approvals within a year."

SIMULTANEOUSLY, the state Government went about putting in place a working infrastructure. The patronage of Madhavrao Scindia, then in the Union Railway Ministry, helped. The Shatabdi Express, for example, revolutionised communications. By cutting travel time between Delhi and Gwalior from nearly six hours to three, it turned Malanpur into a virtual suburb of the capital. As K.K. Modi, president of Godfrey Phillips, says: "You can go there in the morning and come back in the evening."

Another advantage is that Malanpur is located in the backward district of Bhind. For companies falling under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act which are allowed to expand only in backward districts, Malanpur was a heaven-sent opportunity. Cadbury is one company which seized it. Once its project is complete, the company expects nearly half of its total production of chocolates and eclairs to come from Malanpur.

For other medium-scale units, the incentives provided to industries setting up in a backward district proved the deciding factor. Says N.J. Kanwar, chairman and managing director of the Rs 12-crore Panchshila Rubber Ltd: "The nine-year sales tax exemption gives your products a competitive edge."



Yashraj Bhatia, vice-president of the Delhi-based Oshi Foods, opted for Malanpur because the best potatoes were available in Etawah, just 60 km away.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

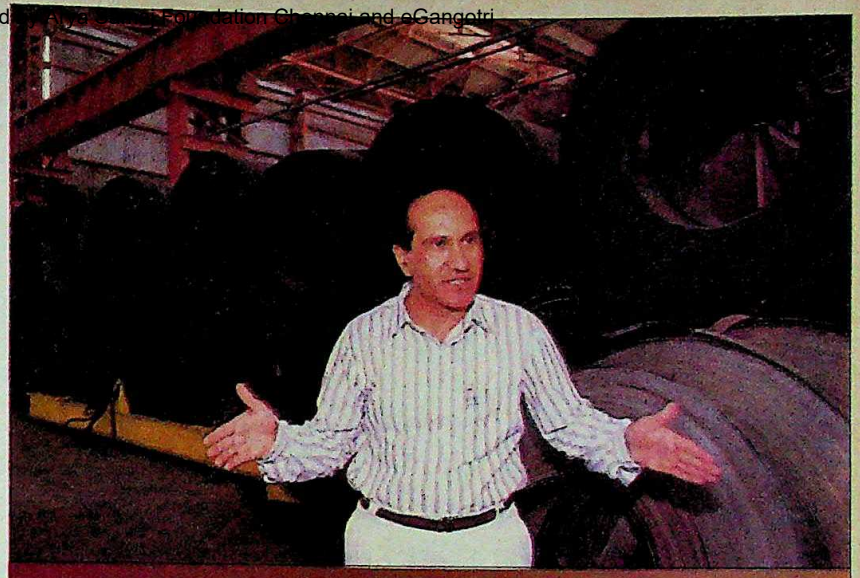
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Also, Malanpur's location, almost plump in the centre of India, gives many companies an advantage in transportation. One is Gwalior-based cotton yarn manufacturer Gangwal Udyog Pvt Ltd. Says Chairman Paras Gangwal: "Malanpur is close to our major markets like Agra, Mathura and Kanpur." Similarly, the Rs 40-crore AVN Tubes found it had a nearly 17 per cent freight advantage over its south Indian competitors while selling in the north.

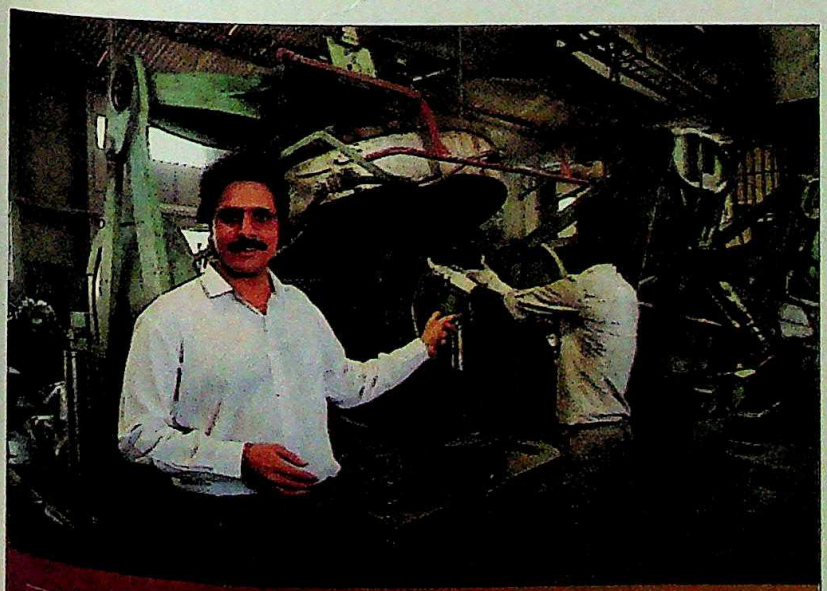
One consequence is that companies hitherto based in the south or in Bombay are moving to Malanpur. Says Adi B. Godrej, managing director of Godrej Soaps Ltd: "Our Malanpur facility will be used to supply our northern and eastern markets." For the same reason, the Cochin-based Travancore Chemical and Manufacturing Company Ltd is setting up a sodium chlorate unit in Malanpur.

Cheap labour is another draw. Travancore Chemical and Manufacturing Ltd pays just half of what it used to pay its highly vocal labour force in Cochin. And Rakesh Soni, executive director of AVN Tubes, says gleefully: "Our wage costs are 20 per cent lower than in Indore, though that too is in Madhya Pradesh." For the Madhya Pradesh Steel Company, a subsidiary of Hindustan Development Corporation, the abundant availability of power was the clinching factor. Says President A.N. Mitra: "We need 100 MW for our steel plant. The fact that Madhya Pradesh has surplus power helped us make up our minds."



For Rakesh Soni, executive director of the Rs 40-crore AVN Tubes, Malanpur's low wage costs and docile labour force were the deciding factor.

Also, even though Malanpur might seem to be a remote area, many raw materials are easily accessed. Says Yashraj Bhatia, vice-president of the Delhi-based Oshi Foods: "We chose Malanpur instead of Nainital because the best potatoes are available in Etawah in Uttar Pradesh, just 60 km away." Cadbury found it had easy access to milk from co-operatives in Gwalior.



Narinder J. Kanwar, chairman and managing director of the Rs 12-crore Panchshila Rubber Ltd, found the nine-year sales tax exemption a major incentive.

All this is not to suggest that Malanpur is an investor's paradise. There are problems all right and as the rush hots up, the murmurs are getting louder. Complains A.K. Mishra, managing director of Dyron Lab, a small-scale pharmaceutical unit: "We have still not received the Rs 23 lakh state subsidy. Without it, our profitability will be severely affected." Another grouse is the Government's decision late last year to hike the price of land by 30 per cent. The promised infrastructure—good roads, a proper sewage system and housing facilities—too remains largely on paper.

So far, though, Malanpur's advantages seem to outweigh the glitches if the undiminished corporate rush is any indication. There are other signs of the new-found prosperity. Locals are imbibing the entrepreneurial spirit. Farmers, who have received Rs 80,000 a hectare as compensation for their land, have built pucca houses and rented them to outstation workers. Two years ago, rents were just Rs 30 a month. Today, one room goes for Rs 300. Other farmers have bought jeeps and trucks in the hope of landing business. And yet others are setting up tea and cold drink shops.

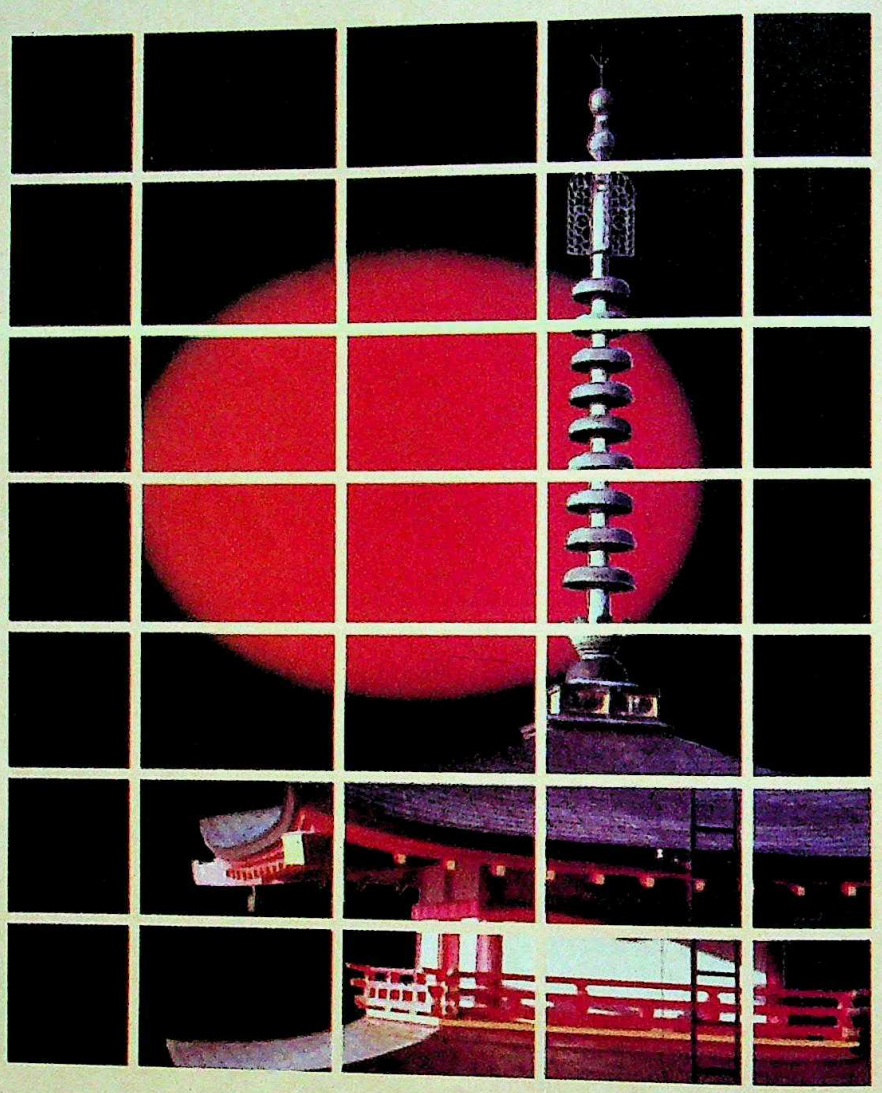
The spirit of enterprise may have been artificially transplanted into Malanpur. But in the barren Chambal soil it seems to have struck vigorous roots. What is awaited is the harvest—and the seeds of prosperity to be sown in a wider region. —SURAJEET DAS GUPTA

in Malanpur with bureau reports

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Rising Sun.
Across the Indian Horizon.



VIDEOCON
AIR CONDITIONERS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Introducing Videocon Air Conditioners. Manufactured under D&D supply agreement with Matsushita Electric Company, Japan, the owners of brand name 'National'.

As the rising sun wakes you up this morning... you'll begin to see air conditioners in a new light.

The Videocon Air Conditioner. It reflects the world's most advanced technology. Japanese expertise that projects air conditioners in a class apart.

High Performance Rotary Compressor

It's what separates the Videocon Air Conditioner from all other air conditioners in India. A compressor so compact, with cooling efficiency that's at par with International Standards. At the same time the design is tough enough to withstand Indian tropical conditions.

Super Quiet Operation

The Videocon Air conditioner incorporates an ultra thin heat exchanger and specially designed sirocco fan, propeller fan, fan motor and rotary compressor. What's more, the rotary compressor is mounted on a vibration-absorbing rubber base and the entire air conditioner housed in heavy insulation.

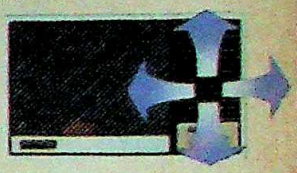
All this gives you a whisper quiet operation.

High -Energy Efficiency Design

Engineered to operate on as little energy as possible, it can save on electricity bills. All this being possible due to the Louver Fins, Grooved Copper Tubing and the Rotary Compressor.

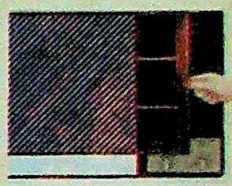
4-Way Air Deflection System

At the touch of a switch, you can control the air direction from side to side. While the louvers adjust the vertical air flow.



One Touch Air Filter

Quick, easy sliding of the filter, without removing the grill facilitates cleaning. You don't have to rely on a technician.



Super Service

The Videocon factory-trained technicians posted in every city can give you service that's most prompt and reliable.

So, if you're looking forward to technology most advanced, take a look at Videocon. The Air Conditioner that looks beyond the horizon. Thinks ahead of times.

Yes. I am impressed with the features of the Videocon Air Conditioner.
Please send me more information on the product.

Name: _____

Designation: _____

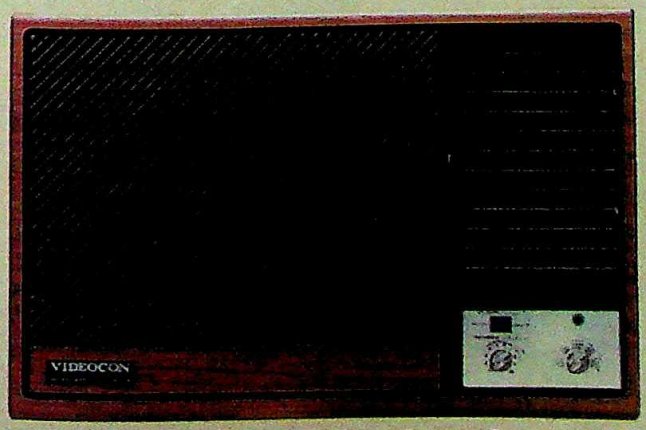
Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Mail Coupon to: **Videocon International Ltd.**
Post Box No. 11741.
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021.

1.5 ton Air Conditioners in Ivory White and Wood Grain finish.

1 year warranty



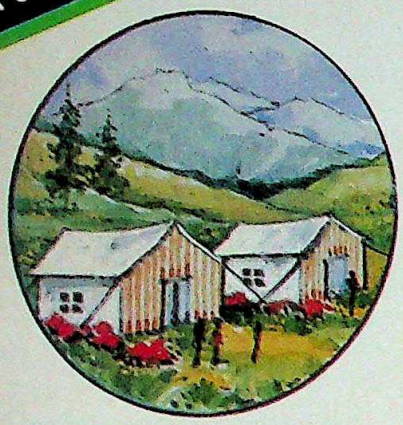
Exceptional. Sensational. So National.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

A Cool Summer Holiday idea

Budget Bonanza in Beautiful Himachal.

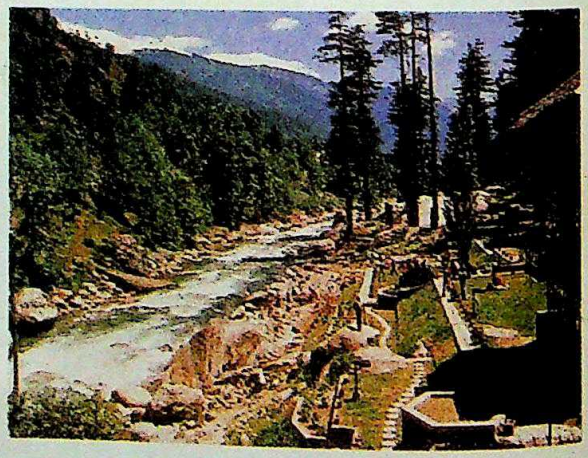


Himachal Tourism now offers 'RENT-A-TENT' facilities at SHIMLA, MANALI, and DHARAMSHALA.! These Holiday Tent-Homes are set in beautiful verdant surroundings. Wide open spaces. With clear blue sky during the day. And a star-spangled night sky. Well-furnished with all amenities – electricity, water, catering and security, these tent-homes are a money-saving proposition too.

SHIMLA

MANALI

DHARAMSHALA



HIMACHAL TOURISM

THE DIRECTOR TOURISM
Himachal Pradesh, Daizy Bank Estate, Shimla-171 001
Phones : 3346, 3136, 4492

H.P. TOURISM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.
Ritz Annexe, Shimla-171 001
Phones : 3294, 5071, 78277

For further enquiries and reservation, please contact :

NEW DELHI : Chanderlok Bldg., 36, Janpath, Tel : 3325320/3324764
■ Tourist Information Office, Himachal Bhawan, 27, Sikandra Road, Tel : 387473
■ BOMBAY : 36, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Tel : 219191/284, 211123 ■ CALCUTTA : 25, Camac Street, Tel : 446847
■ MADRAS : 28, Commander-in-Chief Road, Tel : 472966 ■ CHANDIGARH : 22-B, S.C.O. 1048-49, Tel : 26494.
■ SHIMLA : The Mall, Tourist Information Office, Tel : 78311, 77646

Compacta

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IGNORANCE IS BLISS

SOON after the National Front Government came to power, Petroleum Minister M.S. Gurupadaswamy announced in Parliament that the Japanese firm Sumitomo Corporation had been blacklisted. Reason: it had paid an illegal Rs 6-crore commission to Jyotsna Holdings—a company controlled by hotel tycoon and Rajiv Gandhi crony Lalit Suri—on an order to supply Rs 100-crore worth of pipes to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission and the Gas Authority of India Ltd. But it now appears that Sumitomo has been shunned only by public sector undertakings in the Petroleum Ministry and not by the Indian Government as a whole.

For, in end-February, after months of negotiations, the Railway Ministry purchased 2,500 wheel-sets, valued at around Rs 7.5 crore, from Sumitomo. The Finance Ministry consented after it was pointed out that East European countries—from where the railways purchase wheel-sets on payment of rupees—were not able to meet delivery schedules because of political turmoil. Encouraged by its success, Sumitomo has bid for two more import contracts, valued at nearly Rs 300 crore, from the railways: one for a prototype fast inter-city train set and the other for 40 electric locomotives. Is Gurupadaswamy aware of what is happening outside his ministry?

ROUND AND ROUND

FOR some years now, the ailing Calcutta-based electrical switchgear manufacturer Reyrolle Burns has been limping along. The company, which employs 350 workers, is jointly owned by NEI of UK and Burn Standard, now a subsidiary of the public sector holding company, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd (BBUL). Last year, the Department of Public Enterprises (DPE) piloted a proposal which would enable BBUL to purchase the overseas shares of Reyrolle Burns. And by December, all government departments concerned—barring the Department of Expenditure in the Finance Ministry—had vetted the proposal. Then, in December, the DPE decided to circulate its proposal to take over the overseas shares of the company all over again. Perturbed, the West Bengal Government has written a strongly-worded letter to the Centre asking it to expeditiously clear the proposal.

PIPPED AT THE POST

THE Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd (CRISIL) has lost the race to establish a credit rating agency in Thailand. Two months ago, it had bid for the Thai contract with the active support of the Asian Development Bank and its private sector lending arm, the Asian Finance and Investment Corporation. But CRISIL had to contend with competition from two giant American credit rating agencies—Standard & Poor and Moody's. Eventually, Standard & Poor won the contract. But CRISIL officials do not perceive the loss as a major setback. They argue that the very fact that CRISIL was shortlisted with the two US bigwigs shows the three-year-old agency has come of age.

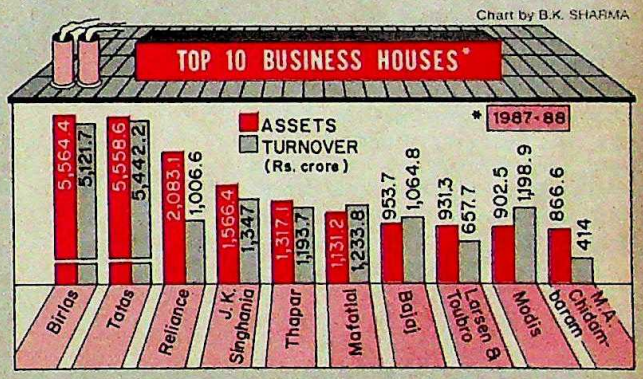
ANOTHER MUTUAL FUND

BETTER late than never, seems to be the motto of the state-owned General Insurance Corporation (GIC). Long after the first wave of domestic and offshore mutual funds, the corporation has decided to launch its own. The GIC fund—which is expected to hit the market in a few months—will be floated by a separate trust being set up now. GIC sources say the proposed Rs 150-crore fund will be divided into three schemes of Rs 50 crore each. One of the major selling points will be that participants automatically get long-term insurance cover.

DUBIOUS DISTINCTIONS

THE Birla group may be the country's biggest business house in terms of assets but in terms of turnover the Tatas pip the Birlas, according to the latest set of figures—pertaining to 1987-88—issued by Industry Minister

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



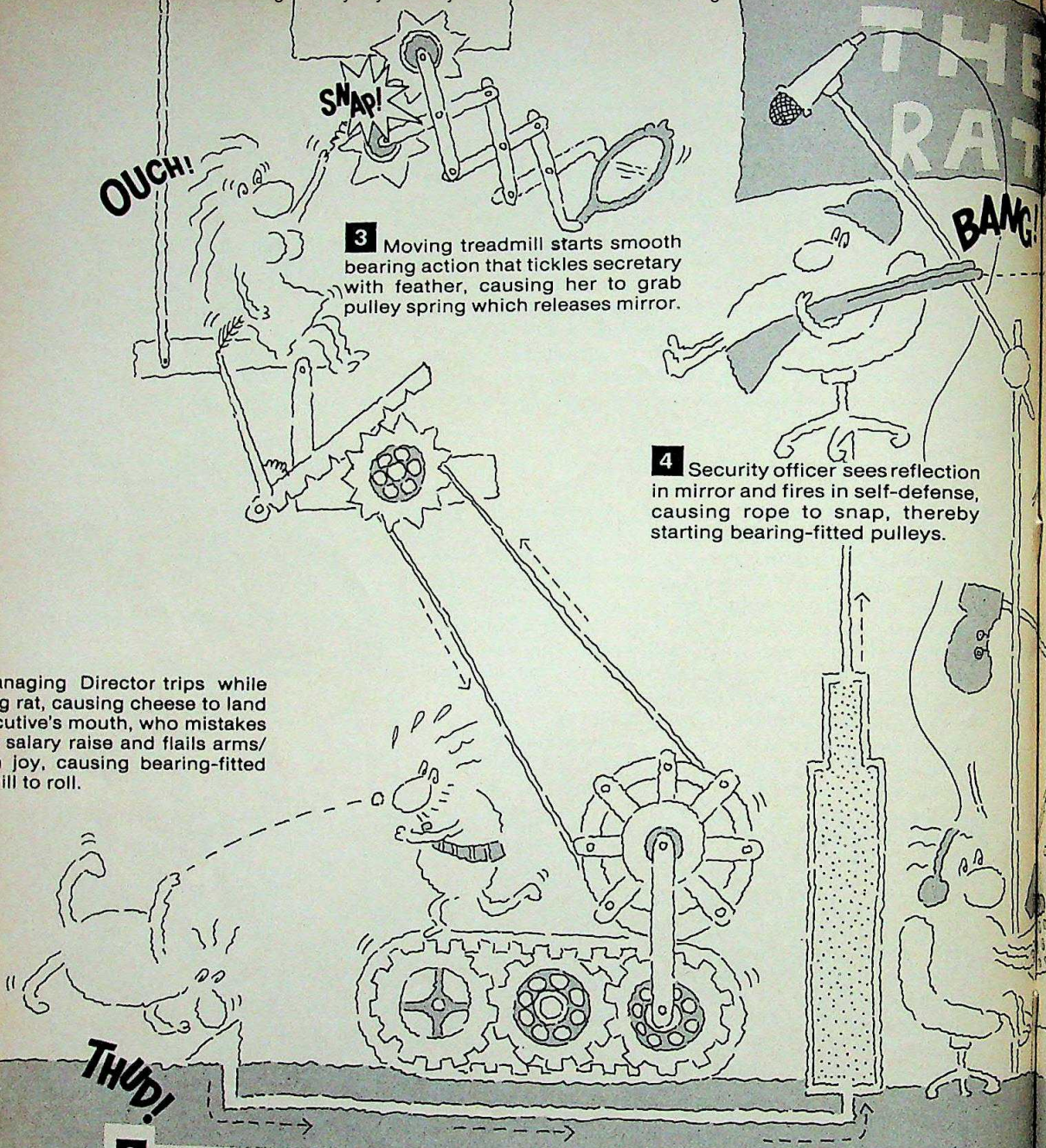
Ajit Singh. Of the country's top 20 industrial houses, Hindustan Lever recorded the third highest level of gross profits though it was placed 11th in term of assets. Also, the Modi group's profits were the lowest among the top 20 houses though it was the ninth largest in terms of assets and the seventh largest in terms of turnover. The Modi group has another dubious distinction: its income tax dues till the end of February this year exceeded Rs 70 crore—the highest among the top 20—though much of this amount is disputed.

TYING UP THE MARKET

THE Rs 10-crore neck-tie manufacturing industry in India is in for exciting times. Zorex Ties Manufacturing Company will soon be launching a new collection of "completely crumple-proof" ties. These chemically-treated polyester ties made out of fabric spun by a special Jacquard weave will be priced three to four times higher than most ties available now. Zorex feels there is a market for such expensively-priced ties since it recently managed to sell silk ties for more than Rs 725 each through exclusive shops in Delhi, Bombay and Calcutta. After introducing its new range, the company hopes to double its turnover to Rs 4 crore next year. Zorex claims its products have an export market since they are comparable to the best West German ties.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



3 Moving treadmill starts smooth bearing action that tickles secretary with feather, causing her to grab pulley spring which releases mirror.

4 Security officer sees reflection in mirror and fires in self-defense, causing rope to snap, thereby starting bearing-fitted pulleys.

1 Managing Director trips while chasing rat, causing cheese to land in executive's mouth, who mistakes it for a salary raise and flails arms/legs in joy, causing bearing-fitted treadmill to roll.

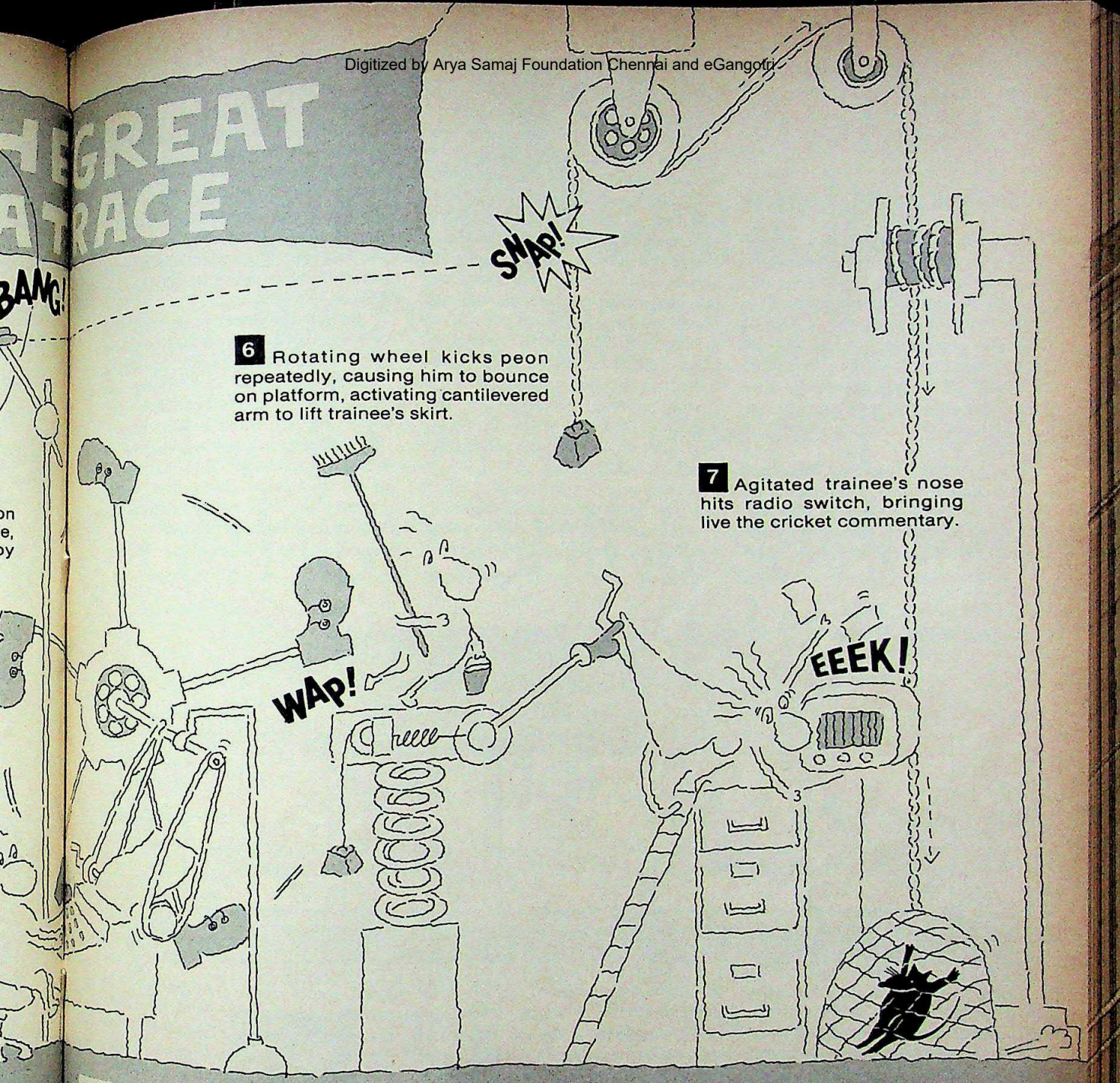
2 MD's head bumps hydraulic lever, ejecting security officer, allowing him a bird's-eye view of rat's activities.

5 Ste
shot to
and pro
letter
bearing

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

B Bearings Limited (formerly Needle Roller Bearing Co. Ltd.) Dhannur, 15 Sir P.M. Road, Fort, Bombay-1. Tel : 295560, 294870, 294998.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



6 Rotating wheel kicks peon repeatedly, causing him to bounce on platform, activating cantilevered arm to lift trainee's skirt.

7 Agitated trainee's nose hits radio switch, bringing live the cricket commentary.

5 Stenographer mistakes gun-shot to be MD blowing his fuse and proceeds to type resignation letter in triplicate, causing bearing-based wheel to rotate.

8 Scurrying rat stops in its tra captivated by Kapil Dev's performar even as bearing activated pulleys d net on the unsuspecting intruder.

NRB
BEARINGS
smooth operator

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PRICES

High Anxiety

Government caught unawares

THE National Front came to power on the strength of many poll promises—one of which was to check the prices of essential commodities. The sudden spurt in the prices of pulses, edible oils, sugar, tea and cement last month following the announcement of the March 19 budget proposals, thus took almost everybody by surprise. In particular, the new rulers were caught unawares.

The shoe was clearly on the other foot this time around: the Congress(I) promptly splashed posters all over the capital comparing current prices with those prevailing five month ago. Even the Government's allies, the BJP and the Left, came out with a volley of complaints about the failure to check inflation. "If the Government can't control prices, its quota of goodwill will be eroded very soon," warned CPI(M) parliamentarian Somnath Chatterjee. And in a somewhat ironical twist, Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate's wife, Pramila, led a demonstration of women against the spiralling prices.

Pushed to a corner, the Government decided to act tough. Prime Minister V.P. Singh breathed fire against speculating traders. In a series of hurriedly-convened meetings with manufacturers of cement, sugar and edible oils, ministers and bureaucrats threatened that stringent controls would be reintroduced unless prices were rolled back.

The upshot was that prices did come down marginally. So last fortnight, Food and Civil Supplies Minister Nathu Ram Mirdha exulted: "Our threats are working and prices have started easing."

But many doubt that such arm-twisting will have a lasting impact. As BJP ideologue Jay Dubashi commented: "Nothing has come down...and nothing will..." Even the Government's sympathisers admit in private that the decline in the prices of sugar, edible oils and cement witnessed in recent weeks may prove to be short-lived. Even if wholesale prices decline, retail prices are unlikely to follow suit. They add that Dandavate's claim that prices will slide further by September depends a great deal on the coming monsoon. For should the rain gods play truant, it would be next to impossible to prevent double-digit inflation from taking place.

Government economists attribute much of the price rise to excess liquidity in the system. Last year, money supply with the public went up by 19.4 per cent, the highest in the last 12 years. "The average annual 18 per cent growth in money supply in the last three years has to be viewed against a 4 to 4.5 per cent real rate of growth of gross domestic product," says a Finance Ministry official. The Reserve Bank has announced a rise in banks' statutory liquidity ratio—or the proportion of deposits that cannot be loaned—from September. But whether the Government will succeed in containing the growth in money supply to 15 per cent this year is to be seen.

Mirdha says that traders and industrialists increased prices far in excess of the rise in costs on account of budgetary hikes in railway freight, petroleum and diesel besides higher procurement prices. But post-budget speculation offers only a partial explanation for the price rise. Lower production, for one, has also contributed to the phenomenon.

For instance, sugar production came down by nearly 6 per cent—from 9.2 million tonnes in the year ending October 1988 to 8.7 million tonnes the following year—while demand went up by a similar proportion. The Government has announced a series of measures aimed at increasing sugar supplies which should dampen prices. But gur and khandsari prices have risen substantially and are unlikely to come down; in fact, they are likely to rise further.

Similarly, oilseeds production has come down by at least a million tonnes in 1989-90, from 17.9 million tonnes the previous year. And the industry and trade claim that the shortfall is even higher—nearly three million tonnes. This translates into a one-million tonne shortfall in edible oils. The Government, on the other hand, claims that "vested interests" are deliberately exaggerating the decline in order to create a shortage psychosis. But one thing seems clear: if prices are to be contained during the September-October festive season, the Government will have to purchase from abroad a lot more than the two lakh tonnes of edible oil it has planned to import so far.

Though pulses' production went up slightly from 13.7 million tonnes to 14 million tonnes between 1988-89 and 1989-90, prices jumped by over 12 per cent last year. Reason: imports declined from eight lakh tonnes to three lakh tonnes. Result: there are no hopes that the two-decade-long decline in per capita availability of pulses will be stemmed.

The hike in tea prices—over 80 per cent in the last two years—is far more than what the decline in production should apparently warrant. Though production is just marginally down—from over 700 million kg in 1988 to 684 million kg last year—the pressures of both domestic and export demand have

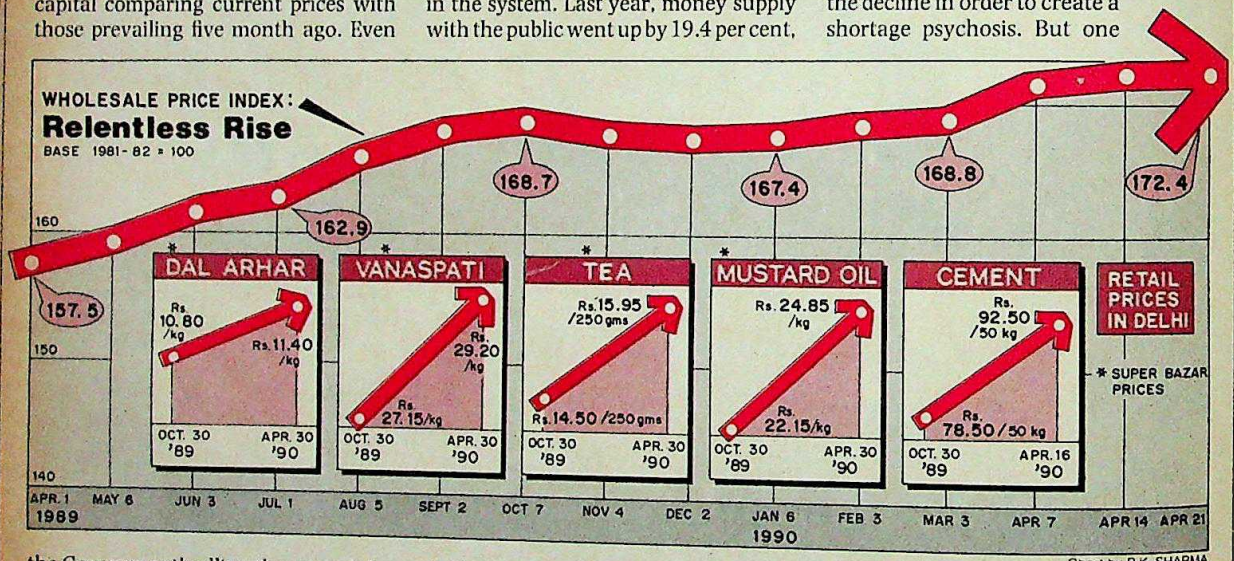


Chart by B.K. SHARMA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Who wouldn't want to earn upto 10.94%* interest on his monthly savings instead of the usual 5%?

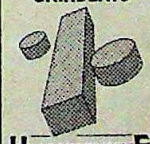
The ANZ Grindlays Hi-Performance Savings Account offers upto 10.94%*. Not just 5% that an ordinary Savings Account offers. Plus the freedom to withdraw upto 75% against your accumulated monthly savings. Anytime. By cheque.

You pay 2% interest (above base rate earned) on withdrawals. To open an account, your average monthly savings should be Rs.1,000/- or more. Call or visit us today. Or mail the coupon now.

HI-PERFORMANCE SAVINGS ACCOUNT. THE ONLY ACCOUNT OF ITS KIND IN YOUR CITY.

EARN UPTO 10.94%*

GRINDLAYS



HI-PERFORMANCE SAVINGS ACCOUNT

Grindlays Hi-Performance Savings Account is a brand name of ANZ Grindlays Bank plc and includes a package of services.

*10.94% is the compounded interest rate on a 3 year Recurring Deposit on a base rate of 10%.

Marketing Manager — India, ANZ Grindlays Bank, 132 Mint Road, Bombay 400 001. ITO

Yes, I want to earn more on my savings through your Hi-Performance Savings Account.

Please send me more information/an Account Opening Form.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

Phone: _____

ANZ Grindlays Bank

ANZ GRINDLAYS MAIN BRANCHES: ▫ BOMBAY – 90 M.G. ROAD, PH: 270165. ▫ CALCUTTA – 19 N.S. ROAD, PH: 208346. ▫ NEW DELHI – 10 SANSAD MARG, PH: 312004. ▫ MADRAS – 19 RAJAJI SALAI, PH: 589131. ▫ AMRITSAR – GANDHI BAZAR, PH: 43217. ▫ BANGALORE – MISSION ROAD, PH: 220300. ▫ COCHIN – BRISTOW ROAD, PH: 69582 ▫ DARJEELING – 49 LADEN LA ROAD, PH: 2777. ▫ GUWAHATI – FANCY BAZAR, PH: 27018. ▫ HYDERABAD – 5-9-234 ABIDS, PH: 237506. ▫ KANPUR – 16 M.G. ROAD, PH: 211462 ▫ SHIMLA – THE MALL, PH: 3025. ▫ SRINAGAR – SHERWANI ROAD, PH: 76935. ▫ TUTICORIN – 44 BEACH ROAD, PH: 20817.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The only VCP

with Auto Head Cleaning System

HQ VHS PAL

P70 from HITACHI

Also available VT-P75 with recording facility

Over 60% of the videos sent for servicing require only head-cleaning. Conventional head-cleaning materials are normally abrasive and can damage the video head.

Now the VT-P70 makes all that a thing of the past. **Hitachi's original head cleaning system automatically cleans dust and dirt from the video head every time you load and unload the tape.** This leaves the head spotlessly clean for a dramatically improved picture. And for dirt-heavy conditions, the head can be cleaned manually as well by pressing a button.

- Digital tracking
- Auto play, auto operate-on, auto rewind shut-off
- Endless play
- Visual search, still play, slow effect
- Infrared wireless remote control

The Auto Head Cleaning System comes with a special **5 year** *guarantee from Eros Electricals.*

AUTO HEAD CLEANING SYSTEM

No VCP is complete without Auto Head Cleaning System – anymore!

HITACHI

EROS ELECTRICALS

P.O. Box 1184, Dubai (UAE) Tel: 666216 Telex: 45902 BADRI EM Fax: 660745

Showroom: Deira 222971 Bur Dubai 521494 Abu Dhabi 336432 Sharjah 356067

254/P70/MGA/490

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

played havoc with prices. The Government has devised a stop-gap measure: it has asked the Soviet Union to stagger its purchases of 'crush, tear, curl' (CTC) tea which is consumed in this country. But this may not help much if tea production in Assam declines this year on account of the ULFA agitation, fears a Commerce Ministry official.

The only major industrial product whose prices have zoomed in the recent past is cement. This, despite a negligible rise in production. Between early-March and late-April, the average price of a 50-kg bag of cement shot up by Rs 10—from Rs 82.50 to Rs 92.50. Industry Minister Ajit Singh then called cement manufacturers and threatened them with re-introduction of controls if they didn't bring down prices. Soon thereafter, prices fell to around Rs 85 a bag.

But the common man is not convinced by such measures. Says an indignant Partap Sharma, a junior government employee: "I've been reading in the newspapers that sugar and edible oils costs have come down, but when I go to the market it's a different story. This Government is no different from the earlier one."

Government sympathisers naturally have a different viewpoint. They say this Government has acted promptly to check speculation unlike the Rajiv government which dilly-dallied on sugar imports, resulting in prices sky-rocketing last September. Says Sailen Dasgupta, chairman of the Left Front in West Bengal: "Our proposed agitation on the price rise could embarrass the Government but we believe it'll respond favourably to popular movements." He says the Government should reduce diesel and railway freight charges and bring down the share of indirect taxes in total tax revenue as there are "better" ways of raising revenue.

But the Government's options are limited. The foreign exchange crunch in particular precludes the possibility of large-scale imports of essential goods to reduce the pressure on domestic prices.

Paradoxically, the recent bout of inflation has served the present rulers' political purposes by diverting attention from more intractable problems like Kashmir and Ram Janmabhoomi. It helps government functionaries create the impression that they are not perennially squabbling with one another but busy tackling economic issues. For this is the one issue which directly touches the lives of the majority—and is therefore most amenable to political slogan-mongering.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA
with bureau reports

PLANNING COMMISSION

Big vs Small

An ideological battle rages

IT'S a battle over the visions of two of the country's greatest leaders all over again—Gandhi and Nehru. One believed that small is beautiful and that villages must become self-reliant. The other thought big was better and that the public sector could attain the commanding heights of the economy.

In the eye of the storm is the new Planning Commission and its controversial approach paper for the Eighth Plan (1990-95), finalised last fortnight. In it, the commission sets the tone for a revival of Gandhian ideals by proposing a massive boost to labour-intensive small-scale and cottage industries. And a drastic scaling down of the role played by state-owned enterprises in the economy. Says Ramakrishna Hegde, the commission's Deputy Chairman: "We are now more convinced than ever before that the Gandhian economic strategy of decentralisation and self-sufficiency is best suited to this country."

The first draft of the approach paper, however, came under so much flak from key ministries in the National Front Government that many of its radical proposals were toned down. The 're-revised draft' submitted for Cabinet approval now looks like—as one senior official puts it—"Gandhi wearing a Nehru cap and Rajiv's Gucci shoes".

Given a free hand, the commission would like to:

► Transfer control of Centrally-sponsored schemes for agriculture and rural development, involving massive outlays, to panchayats in states;

► Divert agricultural investments from Green Revolution areas to neglected dry-land farming zones;

► Make the public sector leaner and meaner by divesting it of chronically losing enterprises and non-essential industries like cycles and tourism;

► Restrict the manufacture of mass-consumption goods like soap and certain kinds of textiles to the small-scale sector;

► Open out infrastructural areas like power, steel and public transport to the organised private sector in return;

► Restrict consumer goods imports, but welcome foreign investments in certain hi-tech, export-oriented sectors.

The commission's hydra-headed approach seems as diverse as the constituents of the National Front Government. Yet, argues L.C. Jain, a commission member, the unifying theme is simply decentralisation and less government (especially Central Government) control. "Nobody is toppling the Qutub Minar as yet," says he, "we are just sending out threatening signals to

Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

vested interests who want status quo.

And it is not just organised industry which is being sought to be 'threatened'. Among the first to see red in the commission's proposals was the Agriculture Ministry headed by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal. The ministry warned that divesting Central control of funds would be a dangerous step. As one senior official remarks: "Without some form of Central control, states are likely to divert money meant for agriculture to other areas."

Apart from insisting on a pricing policy that would benefit farmers, the ministry wanted the approach paper to mention the need to expedite the construction of major and medium irrigation works. Commission members persuaded Devi Lal to accept in principle the need to decentralise disbursement and utilisation of funds, but yielded to the ministry's other suggestions in the approach paper.

Compromises were made with regard to other ministries as well. The Industry Ministry's first reaction was that the commission had ignored the trend towards globalisation of the Indian economy. Nor did it lay sufficient emphasis on high technology. There was a feeling too that wrong messages were being sent to the private sector, prompting Industry Minister Ajit Singh to clarify: "We think small is beautiful, but big is not bad."

Major differences surfaced over the absence of specifics in the approach paper. Both the ministries of industry and finance felt the approach paper, instead of being a "mere statement of political intentions", should have fixed specific sectoral targets and an overall growth rate for the economy.

Commission members, however, argue the country had in the past been unduly obsessed with growth rates. They point out that despite the impressive average gross domestic product (GDP) growth rate during the seventh plan period (1985-90), annual growth of employment actually dropped from 2.22 per cent in the '70s to around 1.55 per cent in 1988. And the thrust of its new economic policies for the '90s is towards generating employment. Or, as commission member Rajni Kothari warns: "The rising unemployment is already generating enormous social tensions—soon it will not just be terrorists who will be carrying AK 47s in the streets."

Other members viewed the ministries' suggestions as a veiled move by the bureaucracy to scuttle their proposals. As Arun Ghosh, its member in charge of industry, points out: "It's a subtle form of sabotage—asking for sectoral targets is a way of allocating money for power, steel, petroleum and other sectors which may well mean that there will not be a paisa left for other areas of development."

Under pressure, however, the commission did eventually yield to the demand to fix the annual growth rate of GDP at 5.5 per cent—marginally higher than the earlier plan period. As a commission member explains: "It was done so that V.P. Singh can ward off criticism by Rajiv Gandhi that the growth rate of the economy would be stagnant."

> The only unifying theme of the commission's approach for the '90s is to decentralise planning and control of funds.

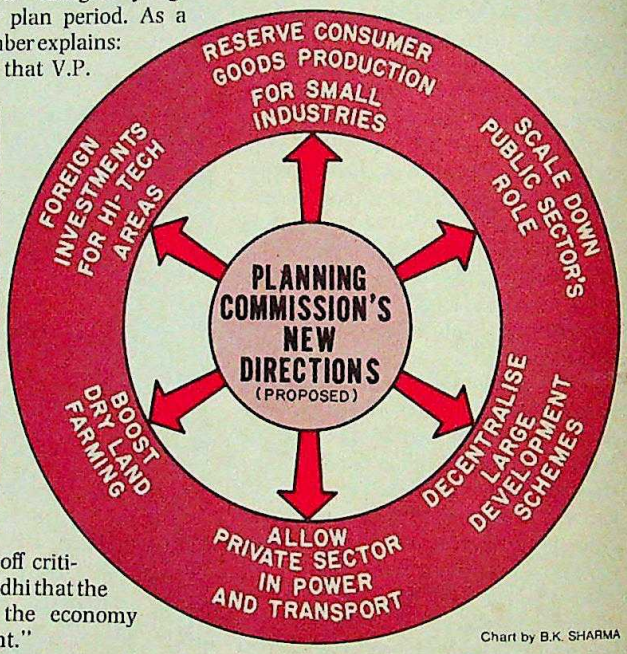


Chart by B.K. SHARMA

The commission blames the tardy growth of job opportunities on what Hegde calls "reckless management of the economy" by the previous regimes which saw substantial investments being made in highly capital-intensive industries at the expense of other sectors. That charge is, however, refuted by Raja Chelliah, former commission member and a key economic adviser to the Rajiv government. He argues that employment did not grow fast in the '80s because of emphasis on modernisation. Says he: "I don't agree that in order to preserve employment we must continue to use tongas instead of cars. It is antediluvian. We can't turn the clock back."

To such comments, commission members reply that progress and development should not be simplistically equated to industrialisation, particularly to the growth of large industry. "There are some who still believe in the 18th century romanticism of industrialisation," retorts Hegde.

Instead, commission members see a Gandhian return to small and cottage industries that are labour-intensive as a major way of easing the unemployment problem. Yet there is a high degree of ambivalence in its approach. As far as the private sector is concerned, it is keen to remove the last vestiges of the licence raj and instead resort to fiscal controls. Yet the reservation of certain industries for small-scale and cottage units may imply a different kind of government control. And the prime minister's Economic Advisory Council recently pointed out that under certain circumstances, consumer goods could be more inexpensively manufactured by large units rather than small-scale units.

As the debate rages, such issues are unlikely to be resolved in a hurry. Other factors to contend with are, what Hegde calls, "the depressing realities on the ground". There is a worrying slowing down of the savings rate, a huge fiscal deficit, growing foreign indebtedness, precarious hard currency reserves and, of course, inflationary pressures. All these could deter the National Front Government from going in for the kind of "shock treatment" of the economy that commission members want.

The V.P. Singh Government has repeatedly stressed that it wants the Planning Commission to rise above the status of a "debating shop" to which it had been reduced by the Rajiv regime. Yet if it dilutes the commission's drastic economic measures, it may render the present one as ineffective.

—RAJ CHENGAPPA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

STYLE OF THE 90's

The future comes home to you in superbly styled computer-designed fans. Stella, Pulsar, Kohinoor... What a range!

Fans with over 40 years of excellence, of leadership. Fans most preferred in India and flying high in 60 countries of the world. Your Usha.

India's largest selling fan. USHA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Rado DiaStar 'Ultra':

As bright as a gem.

A Rado classic presents itself with new brilliance: flatter, more elegant and fully scratchproof. Case and bracelet are made of scratchproof hardmetal. Together with the nearly diamond-hard sapphire crystal it is a valuable timepiece that looks, even after years, just as new as on the first day. The Rado DiaStar 'Ultra' has a Swiss quartz precision movement. It is available in white and golden-yellow versions at an amazingly competitive price.

RADO
Switzerland

Rado. Official Timekeeper of XI Asian Games, 1990.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Summer Addiction

This summer the male population will find a new addiction. For those people dedicated to good taste we offer the irresistible Park Avenue Casual Shirts Collection.

Made from 100% cotton and comfortable blends. Available in checks, stripes and plains, in a variety of attractive colour combinations.

The Park Avenue Casual Shirts Collection – a mid-summer's daydream.

Style... it never goes out of fashion.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

LINTAS PA 135 2517

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SANYO

MORE THAN INNINGS WON!

If you can have it on the SANYO VHR-D5600PS

The game's not over. If you can replay the SANYO AUSTRALASIA '90 Cup on the VHR-D5600PS! And be surprised at the details you can miss, even if you can see it 'LIVE'. Because the VHR-D5600PS is unlike most other players. It's a whole new dimension in video cassette technology. Quite rightly, you'll see many new dimensions. Like the ***cycle strobe***, it gives 8 still picture segments around a moving central picture. And the ***mono strobe***, which offers a more detailed analysis of fast action scenes. What's more, the ***zoom*** function lets you have a closer look at a particular scene. In all, 38 revolutionary features for a new era in digital home entertainment.

mono strobe

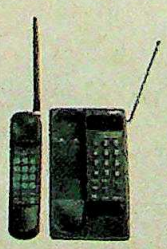
zoom

cycle strobe

BASSURROUND

The Ultimate Sound Debut – Sanyo BASSUROUND. MCD 950F
- BASSUROUND sound with Extended Bass Sound System and Surround Sound System
- Twin CD Player
- 2-band stereo radio / double cassette recorder

Static free cordless telephone – TALK SMART-CLT-88
- High quality sound with compander circuit
- 256 Digital security codes 10-Channel auto scan
- Keypad on base unit



8mm Camcorder

The Camcorder to carry just for the fun of it. VEM-S1P
- Ultracompact and lightweight 0.9kg
- Easy operation with Digital auto function
- High picture quality CCD 470 000 pixels

33"
CTV CMX 3359
Turn your home into a movie theatre.
- Dynamic large screen 33"
- Hi-Fi stereo sound with 2-way, 4-speaker system
- Picture in Picture

BPL

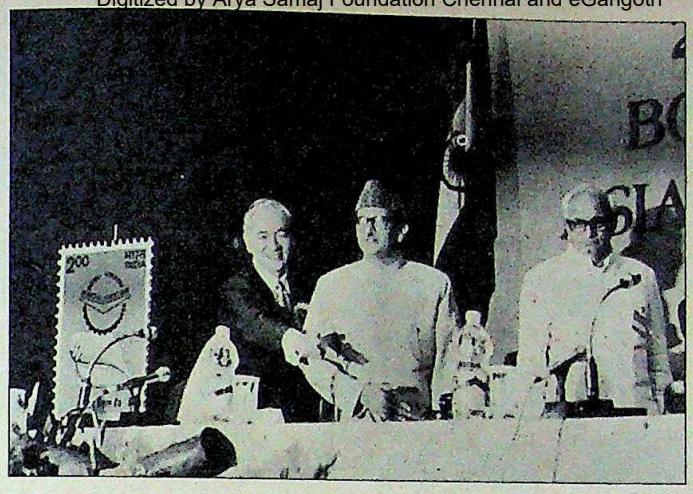
SANYO International Warranty

SANYO products can be serviced at these local authorised service centres:
- **Bangalore** Tel: 233515, 233527 • **New Delhi** Tel: 6846573/74, 6841954 • **Bombay** Tel: 4114577, 4113867, 4112662
- **Madras** Tel: 76603, 77034 • **Palghat** Tel: 25794 • **Cochin** Tel: 361619

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

KAMERAD-NEWS-SANYO-006-90 R

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Tarimizu with V.P. Singh and Madhu Dandavate

ADB MEETING

A Gala Affair

But major funding decisions are postponed

NEW Delhi was invaded last fortnight. The attack was swift and peaceful and concentrated largely around the city's five-star hotels. The invader was not Pakistan but a 3,000-strong multinational regiment of dull, grey-suited, and well-heeled bankers. "The gentlemen with the long pockets," as an Indian Finance Ministry official remarked.

The long pockets were in Delhi to attend the 23rd annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Manila-based clone of the World Bank. The meeting lasted for close to 24 hours, spread over three days. Most bankers (drawn from the international banking community and from 49 ADB-members including India) came, saw and, well, yawned through the proceedings.

For most of them, it was the backstage drama that was far more interesting. Bankers were busy cutting deals with other bankers, and representatives of ADB-member countries were seen lobbying in the corridors of the Ashok Hotel for a larger share of the ADB kitty (outstanding loans until December 1989 amounted to $ 19 billion of which India's share was 8 per cent).

It was obvious all through that it was the Japanese who were calling the shots. Japan and the US hold an equal 15-per cent stake in ADB's equity capital (India's share is 7 per cent) but for all practical purposes the Americans took a back seat at the meeting. The US presence was token (they sent a junior Treasury Department official, prompting an Indian official to remark that "big brother has sent in his youngest son").

For most delegates, the visit to India was of special interest. It was the first time they were coming face-to-face with the new National Front Government and there were hopes that Prime Minister V.P. Singh in his inaugural speech would announce a new policy to encourage foreign investment. But Singh's speech came as a disappointment. "India is still living in a make-believe socialist world," said a Japanese banker.

The consensus in the international banking community appears to be that India's foreign debt has touched "alarming proportions" and that the country's ability to service that debt is in question. This provoked Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate to say: "This is precisely why India is seeking assistance from the Asian Development Fund (ADF). Negotiations for replenishing the fund should start immediately."

The ADF from which India is seeking funds is the soft-lending window of the ADB which hands out loans to developing countries in Asia on extremely favourable terms with repayment staggered over 40 years. The ADF's funds are replenished at five-year intervals through donations from developed countries like the US, Japan and West Germany. The size of the last ADF was $3.5 billion and for the new replenishment due next year, the ADB wants $10 billion, an amount the Americans feel is far too high.

Both India and China have so far not been granted access to the ADF on technical grounds (The fund is open only to the so-called "traditional borrowers"). Moreover, in 1986, both countries had informally agreed that they would not seek any ADF assistance independently.

But there is more than cheap finance involved here. The ADF-6, as the next replenishment is called, has, in fact, become a political issue. Since the massacre in Tiananmen, China has been shunned by international bankers and the ADB has stopped granting fresh loans to the country. And at the Delhi meet the US managed to postpone negotiations on ADF-6.

Argues George Folsom, the US Treasury

ADB Assistance to Indian Private Sector

Enterprise/Institution	Project Cost	Assistance Approved
1. DCL Polyesters Ltd	113.0	24.000
2. Andhra Petrochemicals Ltd	92.0	7.000
3. Indian Acrylics Ltd	90.0	8.100
4. Creditcapital Venture Fund Ltd	n.a.	0.800
5. Credit Rating Information Services of India Ltd	3.0	0.450
6. Canfin Ltd	34.5	0.667
7. Onnitel Industries Ltd	3.2	0.150
8. Andhra Pradesh Power Tools Ltd	12.8	0.430
9. Nortech India Ltd	4.0	0.241
10. Nerdilla Oxides and Electronics Ltd	11.2	0.455
11. Inno-Tech Powers Ltd	4.6	0.178

In the Pipeline
(Proposed funds to invest in India)

Name	Size	Proposed Investment in India
1. Asian Convertibles and Income Fund	63	12.6
2. Indian fund	—	—
3. Mutual fund for the leasing industry	63	60

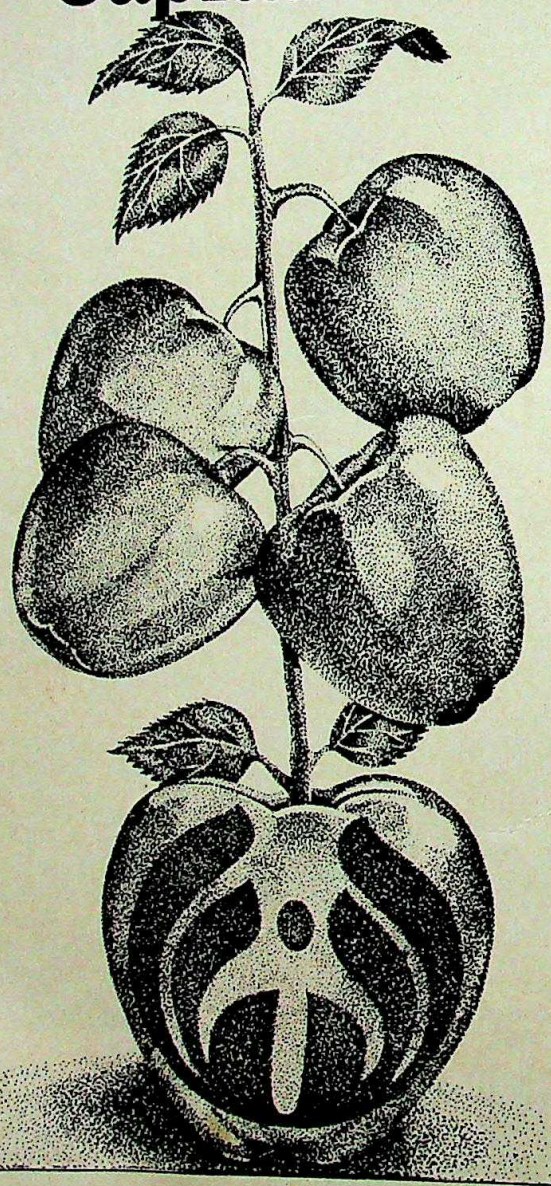
All figures in $ (US) million

Table by MAHENDRA RATHORE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IDBI Capital Bonds An attractive instrument for exemption from Capital Gains Tax.



- Available at par throughout the year.
- Exemption from Capital Gains tax under Section 54E of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Exemption from Wealth tax under Section 5(1) (xvie) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957
- Income tax benefit under Section 80L.
- Interest at 9% p.a. payable half yearly.
- At the investor's option, interest for the full period of 3 years can be paid in advance on discounted basis.
- No deduction of tax at source.
- Outstation cheques accepted and cost of collection will be borne by IDBI.

For further details contact the nearest IDBI office or write to Manager

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA
IDBI TOWER, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay 400 005.

Sobhagya-B/IDBI/89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Department's deputy under-secretary of state: "There is a substantial balance of unutilised funds still lying to the credit of ADF. That should meet funding requirements well into 1991. So we proposed that talks on a fresh replenishment start at a later date." But the US was fighting a lone battle on this issue.

Another contentious issue is whether India and China should be permitted access to the estimated $ 1.5 billion of unutilised ADF funds. US officials are non-committal on the issue but Japan and West Germany are keen on both an early start of the negotiations and lending money to India. Says a senior Indian Finance Ministry official: "We were informally assured that Indian access to ADF would not be a problem."

But there could be a catch here. The ADB meeting was preceded by a high-profile visit of Japanese Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu during which he promised Rs 1,020 crore in fresh aid to India. A Finance Ministry official feels the Japanese might have been hinting that they could meet India's concessional loan requirements, and that gaining access to ADF funding is not crucial. "But," he adds, "Japanese assistance will be tied to supplies of equipment from Japanese companies. They win both ways."

The Japanese were chalking up minor victories elsewhere too. The private sector arm of the ADB is one example. Established last year, the Asian Finance and Investment Corporation (AFIC) is similar to the World Bank's International Finance Corporation (IFC). But while member countries of the World Bank have an equal share in the capital of the IFC, a consortium of Japanese banks holds 35 per cent of AFIC (ADB's share is 30 per cent).

AFIC has just launched the Asian Convertibles & Income Fund, a $ 63.5 million fund which will invest in debenture issues of private sector companies across Asia. India's share of the fund's investible resources is 20 per cent and is being managed by SBI Capital Markets. AFIC is also scouting for equity investment opportunities in Indian private sector companies where it will be competing with the private sector department of ADB. Says J. Yamana, AFIC's chief executive (a Japanese like ADB President Kimimasa Tarimizu): "We don't see any overlapping of functions. The two play a complementary role." And every which way, the Japanese domination of the bank will continue. —S.N. VASUKI

SIDELIGHTS

Is Burma (or Myanmar as it is now called) living behind the times? At the ADB meeting, the Burmese representative profusely thanked finance minister S.B. Chavan for chairing the meet. Is Madhu Dandavate listening?

◆

ADB President Kimimasa Tarimizu and his wife hosted a banquet on the eve of the meeting where 1,500 delegates turned up. According to protocol, each invitee had to shake hands with the president and his wife. The result: a queue stretching from the banquet hall of the Ashok Hotel to the car park and a handshaking session that lasted 90 minutes.

◆

The newest member of the ADB is the South Pacific island of Micronesia. While speaking of the size of his country in his speech, the Micronesian official pointed out that "most of our land is under water". Luckily, the ADB does not consider lending to the country a sinking proposition.

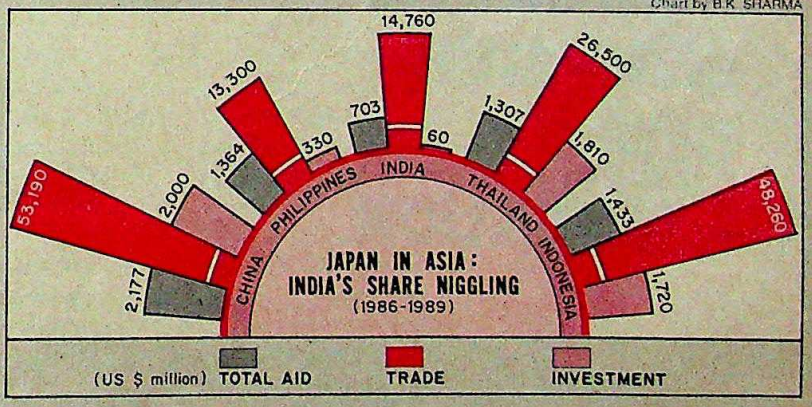
JAPAN

Major Role

JAPAN has sent out strong signals that it intends playing a more active role in South Asia. This was evident during Prime Minister Toshiki Kaifu's whistle-stop tour of India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Sri Lanka. Coming as it did before the annual meeting of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) in the capital, Kaifu's three-day visit to the country was marked by impressive public relations. Invoking the spirit of Mahatma Gandhi, he urged India and Pakistan to sink their differences. "Indo-Japanese economic relations had reached a dead end but now there's optimism," remarks a Japanese official.

Kaifu announced that Japan would be extending a Rs 1,020-crore concessional aid package to India. But this figure has to be seen in context. Between 1986 and 1989, Japan invested some Rs 3,400 crore in Thailand. During this period, the total direct Japanese investment in India was Rs 10 crore. Says an executive who has dealt with Japanese companies: "They are sinking their money in golf courses in Thailand. But they are shying away from investing here and would prefer to trade with India or provide us technology for hefty fees."

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



Japanese bankers and businessmen say that bureaucratic delays pose the biggest hurdle. In 1988, Rajiv Gandhi had promised that proposals from Japan would be processed on a 'fast-track' but this has not happened. "All we end up doing is filling forms," says the representative of a Japanese bank. Result: only two Japanese banks, Bank of Tokyo and Mitsui Taiyo Kobe, operate in India.

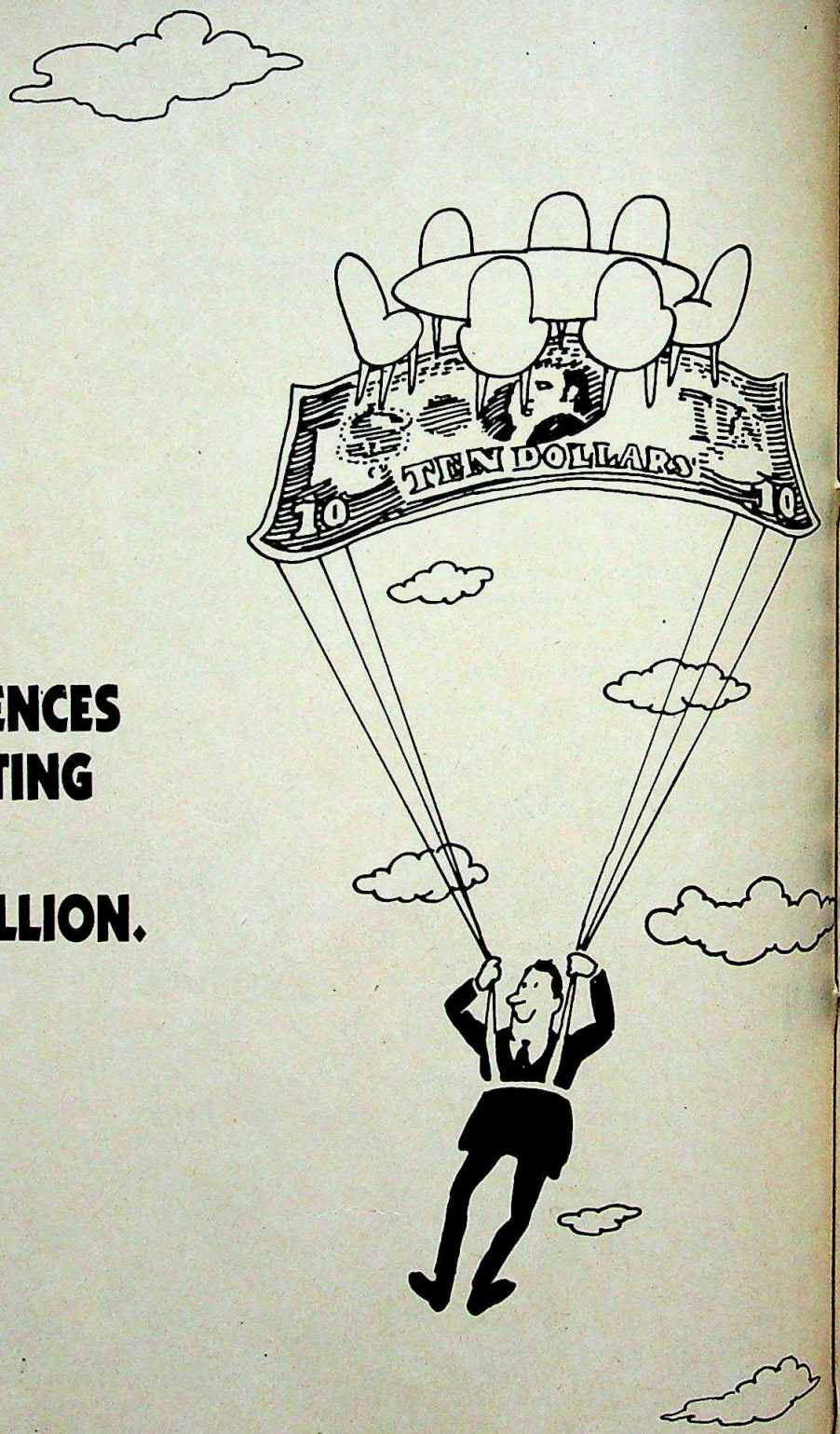
But Indian industrialists accuse the Japanese of being inflexible. "They want total control which creates problems," says one. A Finance Ministry official adds: "Even concessional loans are tied to purchases of Japanese equipment."

Still, one crucial question goes abegging: with eastern Europe opening up, why is Japan interested in a 'difficult' market like India? To this question, a Japanese banker has the last word: "We are seeking to play a global role and India definitely figures in it." What that role is will become precise in the years to come. Meanwhile, move over everybody. Japan Inc. is here. —S.N. VASUKI

Sobhagya-B/DB/89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

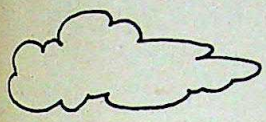


33,000 WORLD CONFERENCES GENERATING OVER $ 104 BILLION.

AS A
NATIO
ASSO
THINI
YOU
CAN
BRING
SOME
HOME

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



AS A NATIONAL ASSOCIATION THINK YOU CAN BRING SOME HOME?

Conferences have become one of the fastest growing economic activities around the world.

As many as 20,000 international associations, besides the U.N., provide the ever increasing impetus to this 'convention culture'. An invaluable imperative for an update on advances and 'confluence of minds'.

Professors, Doctors, Engineers, Scientists.... A new challenge!

Thousands of you are always on the move, representing India at the forefront of technological forums.

Indeed you do India proud!

But here's an invitation to a larger mission. To bag the next conference at the next international meet you attend, and make India the prestigious venue. Thereby also contributing to India's own intellectual and professional growth.

India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB) redefines you from Delegate to Host.

To make you vie with the world. To provide all the support you need to bid and win.

That's the role of ICPB. A non-profit association sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

In this endeavour ICPB has the support and resources of its member bodies comprising Airlines, Hotels, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Bureaus, Travel Associations, etc.

Count on ICPB to make your conference happen.

ICPB is with you all the way. Right from the ideation stage, discussing ways and means of getting your conference to India, preparing professional bid documents, assisting in the bid presentation and even in the post-bid phase, through member organisations: promotions, bookings, management of the event – everything.

India! All set to host the world!

To make India the world's most favourite 'conference destination' look what's happening–

In addition to our existing convention centres in Delhi and other major cities, more scenic areas are being developed – Agra, Goa, Bangalore, Kovalam to name a few. With facilities that are absolutely state-of-the-art. With unique ambience and environment that will make any deliberation most memorable.

All eyes are on India.

India is emerging as the destination of the 90s. The great rush is already on.

Not merely because India is an enchanting tourist destination but also because it's an unforgettable learning experience.

And it is on this strength that you can cash in and confidently win larger laurels for India. Make it the 'conference destination'.

Will you be the first to talk to ICPB today? How many billions of the booming convention business should we say?

Get in touch. Your mission is very exciting.

For further details write to or contact:

INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU
Room 233 A, Ashok Hotel,
New Delhi-110 021.
Phones : 6874318, 6873612, 600121 (Extn. 2687)
Tlx : 031-65647 ASOK IN, 031-65207 ASOK IN
Fax : 687-3216.

ICPB
INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU

Sponsored by :

Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

ICCA MEMBER

INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU
All you need to bring world minds together.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MAC GROUP

Dire Straits

State Government takes tough stand

IN terms of assets, the Madras-based M.A. Chidambaram group is the country's 10th largest. Over the years, it has acquired a reputation of being the most dynamic industrial house in southern India. And the group's patriarch M.A. Chidambaram and his son A.C. Muthiah have been lauded as visionaries who could look into the future, spot a gold-mine and start digging even as others went scurrying for their shovels.

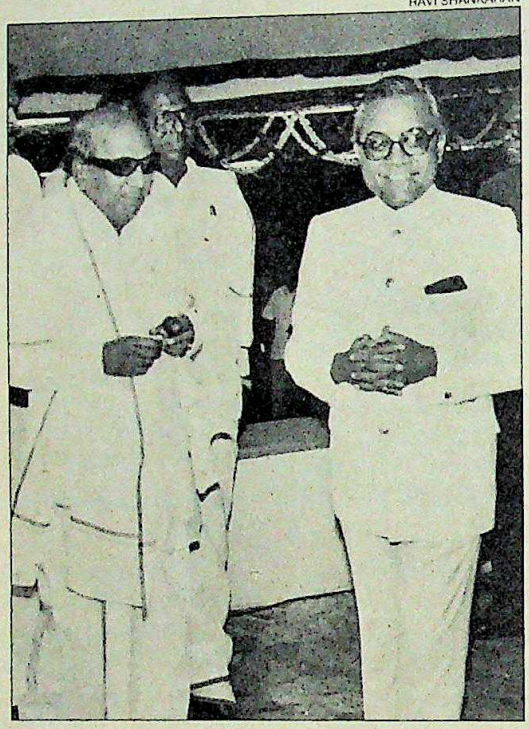
In the recent past, however, someone else has been doing the digging. Ever since the DMK came to power in Tamil Nadu, the state Government has been conducting inquiries into the group's affairs to ascertain whether, as alleged, its rise has been due to an unholy alliance it had with the former AIADMK regime. In a series of deft, well-planned moves which took industry circles by surprise, the state Government first stripped A.C. Muthiah of the chairmanship of the joint sector liquor manufacturing company Southern Agrifurane Industries Limited (SAFL) in February 1989 and then, last month, removed him from the post of chairman of another joint sector enterprise Tuticorin Alkali Chemicals and Fertilisers Ltd (TAC). That's not all.

The *coup de grace* came on April 20 when, after much dilly-dallying, Chidambaram was asked to step down as chairman of the Rs 805-crore Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation Ltd (SPIC) after proposing Tamil Nadu Chief Secretary M.M. Rajendran's name as his successor. Emboldened by the smooth ejection job at SPIC, the state Government moved fast and struck yet another blow: Muthiah was removed from the chairmanship of Tamil Nadu Petroproducts Limited (TPL) and Home Secretary R. Nagarajan, who is close to Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi, appointed in his place.

The Chidambaram fleet which was riding the waves suddenly seemed to have sprung leaks. But Muthiah put up a brave front. Says he: "I've taken all this in the right spirit. The Government of Tamil Nadu and the group are coming closer for better growth and interaction." He feels that his father may have been dethroned because Karunanidhi wanted to implement certain norms relating to the appointment of government nominees.

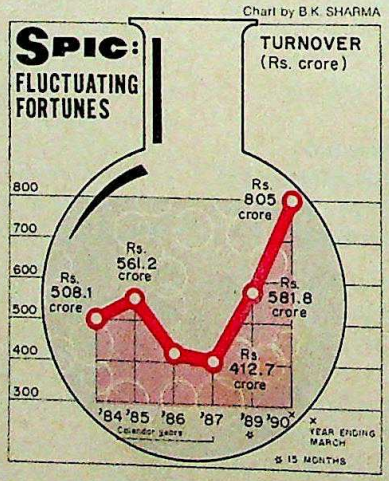
But for the group, these norms did not seem to matter at least as long as the MGR government was in power. As per convention, the state Government is supposed to nominate the chairman of a joint sector venture since it is the concern's largest shareholder with a 26 per cent equity stake (the private promoters' share is usually 25 per cent). Muthiah-backers point out the case of Titan Watches—a joint sector company set up by the Tamil Nadu Industrial Development Corporation (TIDCO) in partnership with the Tata group—which is headed by the non-official A.L. Mudaliar.

RAVI SHANKARAN



Karunanidhi with Muthiah: pique

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



The new SPIC Chairman Rajendran retorts: "The norms do not say that non-officials cannot head joint sector units. Mudaliar is the TIDCO nominee. There is nothing hanky-panky about his being Titan chairman."

Even though the protagonists in this continuing battle are putting up a facade of camaraderie—Chief Minister Karunanidhi and Muthiah recently attended each other's daughters' weddings—it is obvious that the state Government clearly wants to show Muthiah his place. Witness the way Chidambaram was removed as chairman of SPIC.

The company's 16-member board of directors comprised four members from the Chidambaram group, four from the Government, three professionals, one representative each from three Central Government-owned financial institutions and two eminent public figures. Of these, the three professionals and two public figures had apparently teamed up with the Chidambaram group taking its strength to nine, while the state Government and the financial institutions together had a strength of only seven.

What happened next was that, on the strength of their combined shareholding, the three financial institutions decided to induct three new nominees on SPIC's board of directors thereby taking the board's strength to 19. This enabled the state and Central governments to step up their combined strength on the SPIC board to 10. "That's how we obtained a majority and Chidambaram had no option but to step down," explains a senior official.

SPIC sources admit that Muthiah was intially prepared for a showdown, but in the end realised that the state Government had played its cards a bit too well. Piqued, he even circulated an advance draft of his father's resignation letter.

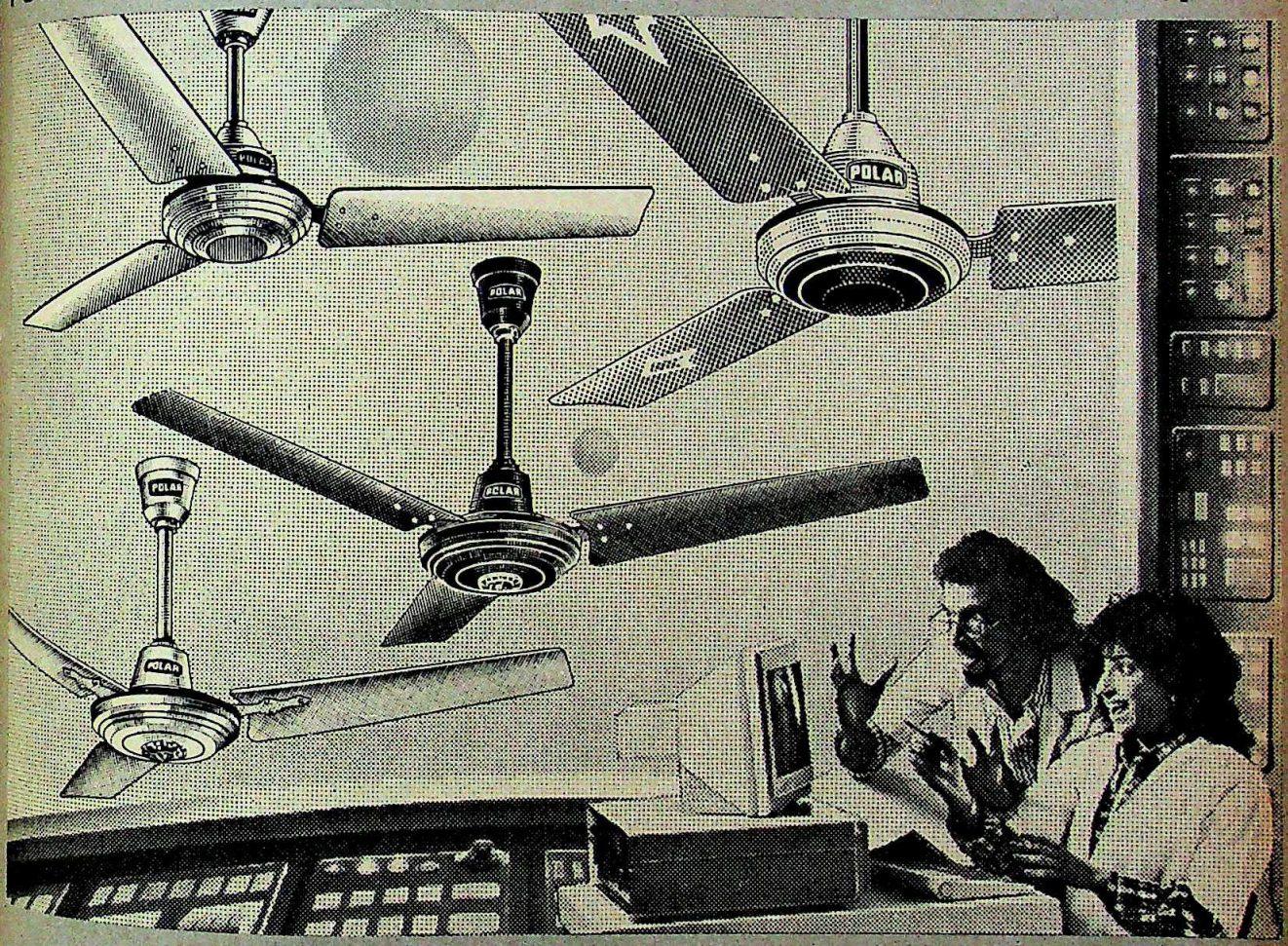
In what has been interpreted as yet another show of anger, Chidambaram addressed Rajendran as the non-executive chairman of SPIC after he resigned. Later, however, he retracted his statement and even asked for the minutes of the company's board meeting to be altered accordingly. A small consolation

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

POLAR

Polar Fan Scientist's breakthrough leaves other fans in the past!



Presenting

Aavishkaar 1990

Designed, created and practically invented by the Polar Fan Scientist.

Can the Polar Fan Scientist honestly claim to have reinvented the ceiling fan? Take a look at the Aavishkaar 1990 range of ceiling fans. The Polar Fan Scientist has outdated every other fan motor. With a new motor that would put a hurricane to shame.

He's designed the blades with perfect balance. For the best breeze ever.

He's put stylish touches to every Polar Fan. You have an exquisite blend of colour shades to choose from-Royal Beige, Silky Green, Twin-Tone, Snow White, Deluxe Brown.

All of this plus the Polar distinction of double ball bearings and 7 years' guarantee in every Polar Ceiling Fan.

The Aavishkaar 1990 range. The better sense fans that push all other fans into the shadows of the past.

POLAR

the SUPER fan

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

for Muthiah is that while his father continues to be a director on the board, he himself remains vice-chairman and president of SPIC.

And if the details about the equity composition of SPIC which are now trickling out are any indication, it is evident that it was not just astute management that enabled Chidambaram to remain at the helm of the company for two decades. Highly-placed sources in the Tamil Nadu Government say that the group's declared share holding in SPIC comes to only 10.5 per cent as against the required 25 per cent. "When asked to account for the balance 14.5 per cent the group says that all shareholders are their friends. That's hardly the way to justify things," says an official.

Similarly, SPIC's share in TAC comes to only 5 per cent against TIDCO's share of 45.23 per cent. According to TIDCO officials, Muthiah had been carrying on as TAC chairman all these years only as a TIDCO nominee. They point out that TAC was promoted by TIDCO and SPIC and not by Muthiah and TIDCO. "The fact that Muthiah continued as chairman for as long as he did clearly goes to show how he had been favoured by the previous state Government," says a bureaucrat.

Chidambaram and Muthiah have a tough struggle ahead of them. There are other charges pending against the group's employees. Three executives and an auditor of SAFL have been accused of siphoning profits to the tune of Rs 4.5 crore in the name of 'market promotion'. But the state Government might not to able to hold Muthiah responsible for all of SAFL's ills. Its accumulated losses exceed Rs 100 crore.

With the screws being tightened on the Chidambaram group, its well-publicised dreams may well turn out to be nightmares. On the group's drawing board are a giant Rs 1,350-crore petrochemicals complex at Manali, a Rs 100-crore pharmaceuticals project to make penicillin-G and a project to manufacture raw materials for detergents. Whether any of these projects will materialise now remains to be seen.

Only the first round of the battle is over. But the state Government is keen on avoiding accusations of vendetta. "To say that we are after the Chidambaram group is a travesty of truth. We are playing fair and considering only the interests of the companies involved," says Rajendran. But it is all too obvious that the DMK Government will not keep away the broom till everything in the Chidambaram group's boardrooms is spick and span.

—ANAND VISWANATHAN

BUSINESSPEAK

I.G. PATEL

Encourage Liberalisation

DR I.G. Patel, 65, director of the London School of Economics and Political Science, is the first Indian to head the prestigious institution. And his credentials are impeccable: he was an International Monetary Fund (IMF) economist and deputy administrator, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP); secretary, Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance (1967-72); governor, Reserve Bank of India (1977-82); and director of the Indian Institute of Management, Ahmedabad (1982-84). But Patel's contribution cannot be gauged merely by these positions. Long before it became fashionable, Patel had argued for dismantling the licence-raj and increasing competitiveness in the public sector. Last fortnight, he spoke to Senior Correspondent S.N. VASUKI *in Bombay on the Government's stunted liberalisation policy and the need to maintain the size of the eighth plan.*

THERE appears to be a big debate on whether the eighth plan size needs to be scaled down due to a shortage of resources. You can't cut the size of the plan. It should be maintained at reasonable levels and if we don't have the resources, the country should borrow money from the IMF. Growth and efficiency are important factors and though targets don't mean much, achieving a 5 to 5.5 per cent growth in the economy is not an impossible task.

There is an argument that to achieve higher growth rates there should be a complementary rise in the savings rate. But this is not true. Savings rates everywhere—in the US, UK and even Japan—are falling sharply. The name of the game now is not investment so much as higher efficiency or productivity: and the chief instrument of that is continuous upgradation of technology.

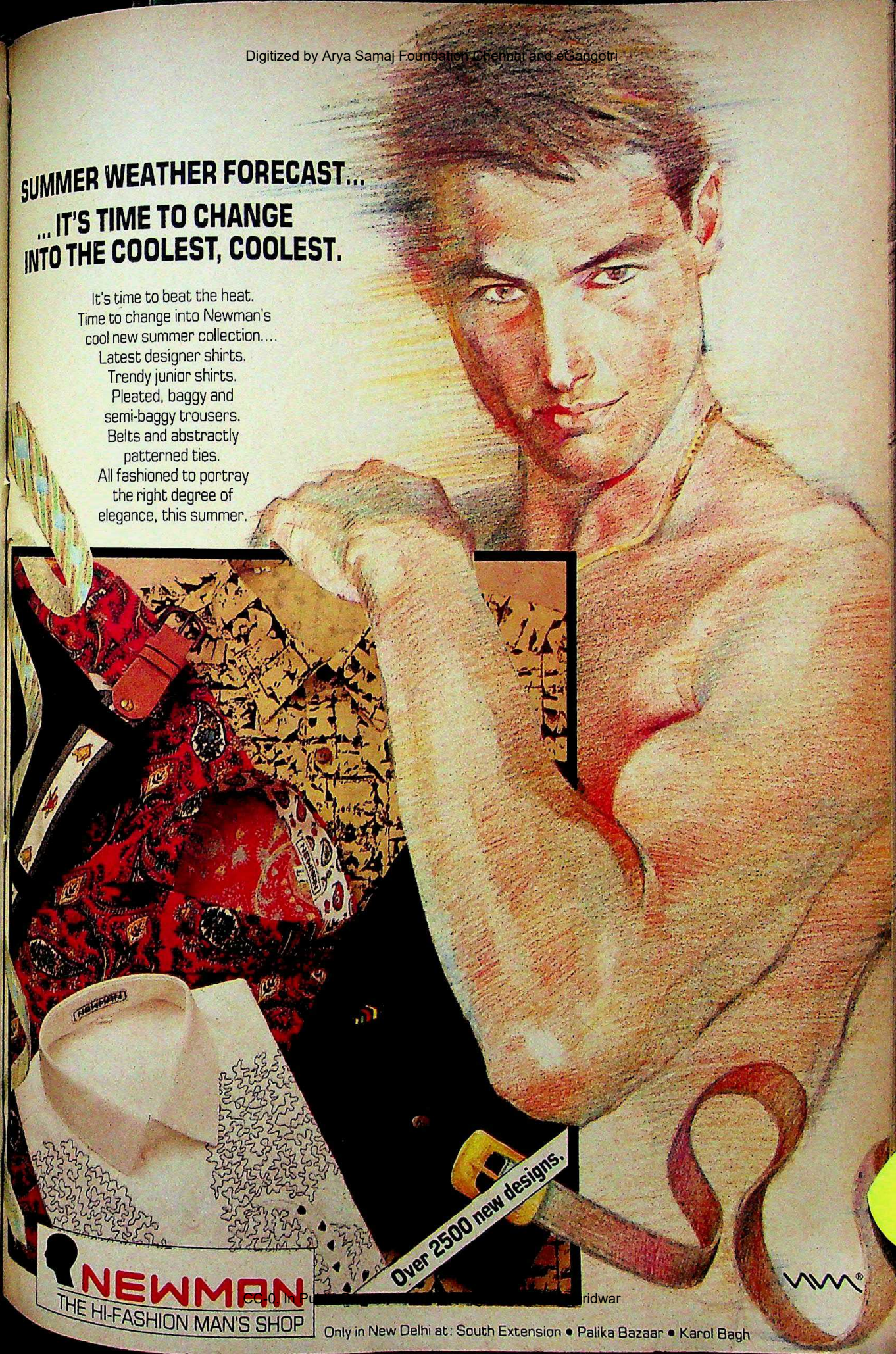
But deblocking the Indian economy to achieve greater efficiency will not be an easy job. Take the public sector as an example. The key is to provide people with more competition and more choice. I believe that Indian Airlines is always criticised for its poor service. My response would be to allow international airlines to operate on a few domestic routes. That would make Indian Airlines more competitive. Alternatively, you can hand over management of public sector companies to the private sector. Or at least try. Privatisation is perceived to have negative characteristics. But there is nothing wrong in being open towards the private sector as well as foreign know-how and foreign investment.

Liberalisation has become a much misunderstood expression. It is interpreted to mean liberalisation of imports only. But actually liberalisation would involve dismantling the industrial licensing system, education and registration of trade unions among many areas that deserve attention. Again for industry, imports of technology and capital goods are not a crime. How can Indian industry compete without the benefits of new technology?

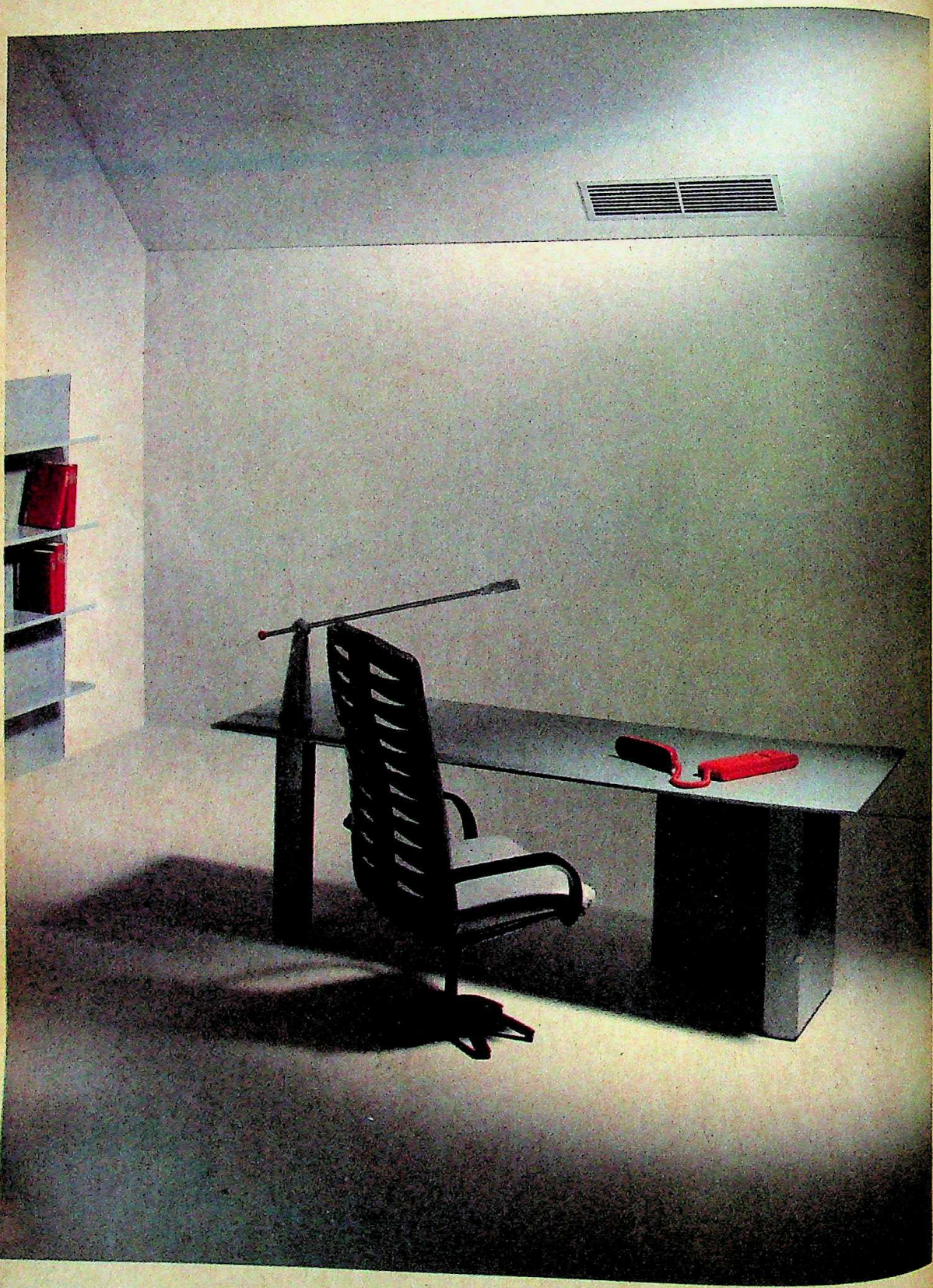
In recent years, Indian exporters have demonstrated that they can compete effectively in world markets. In international markets the cutting edge of competition is more severe. But you can't capture world markets while still protecting domestic industry from competition. The private sector also will have to be exposed to competition and bankruptcy and closures or take-overs including take-overs by foreigners—and I mean full-blooded foreigners and not just non-resident Indians. No divine right or sovereignty needs to be conferred upon our large industrial houses, however hallowed their names might be. The present oligarchy of industrial and financial power in India is the product of the regime of controls and patronage supported extensively by corruption and no particular sanctity need to be attached to any part of it. In India we are at the crossroads of economic policy once again. The path to take is the same as chalked out in 1985 and 1986. Only this time, we shall have to move faster and on a wider front.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Trikaya Grey AE 3 89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Chair by Ferdinand Porsche. Lamp by Akihito Miyake. Air conditioner by Amtrex.

When you've invested so much time and effort designing your office, the last thing you need is a big, ugly air conditioner to mess it all up. What you need is an Amtrex split. Its quietly recessed ducts blend in perfectly with the decor. It has a separate condenser unit that's placed outside, so it makes no noise. And a perfectly streamlined air-delivery system inside. Which makes it the most noiseless split air conditioner available. It comes in a choice of 1, 1.5 and 2 tons. As well as multi-split models of 2, 3 and 4 tons that cool more than one room simultaneously. (The widest range in the market today.) Each of them has the option of being fitted on the ceiling, the wall or the floor. It's already been installed at some of the largest companies in India: Reliance Industries, Food Specialities and Crompton Greaves, amongst others. To add your name to the list, pick up the phone. The name to drop is Amtrex.

AMTREX

SPLIT AIR CONDITIONERS

Amtrex Ambience Pvt. Ltd. (An Enterprise of Lalbhai Industries Consolidated). Corporate Office: 'Rachana', Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad 380 004. Offices: Ahmedabad 383035/36, Baroda 326164, Bangalore 267302, Bhopal 553697, Bhubaneshwar 52034/52297, Bombay 233890/2040447/2040445, Chandigarh 25147, Gauhati 32683, Goa 22346/21961, Hyderabad 210886, Indore 65140, Lucknow 40670, Madras 461301/457266, Nagpur 23786, New Delhi 6835986/6841228, Patna 221353/222359, Pune 661693/ 666699, Raipur 523322, Rajkot 42627, Surat 38008, Vizag 66308/64329

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DUBAI DUTY FREE'S FINEST SURPRISE CONTINUES...

YOUR OPPORTUNITY TO WIN THE WORLD'S FINEST CAR AT THE NEWLY EXPANDED DUBAI DUTY FREE

Tickets are priced at Dhs. 500/ US$ 138 and limited to 1000 bonafide departing and transit travellers.
The draw date and winning number will be published in the international press and the car will be shipped to any part of the world free of charge.

The finest collection at the world's most elegant duty free.

For The World's Finest. **Fly-Buy-Dubai**

السوق الحرة دبي
DUBAI DUTY FREE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

RELIANCE INDUSTRIES

Fresh Offensive

Ambanis accused of evading customs duty

HAS the V.P. Singh Government decided to patch up with the Ambanis? Some people have interpreted the recent settlement of the dispute over Larsen & Toubro to mean just that. But they could be wrong. The Government, in fact, may soon be attacking on another front. The charge this time is that Reliance Industries has evaded customs duty worth Rs 100 crore by misdeclaring the capacity of its purified terephthalic acid (PTA) plant at Patalganga near Bombay.

The origins of the case go back to 1983. That year, Reliance applied to the Government for an industrial licence to set up an imported PTA plant with an annual capacity of 1.5 lakh tonnes. In early-1984, the Department of Company Affairs cleared the proposal under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Act. But the clearance was for a 75,000-tonnes per annum plant, half the capacity applied for. Later, in October 1984, the Industry Ministry's Directorate of Technical Development issued a letter of intent. And in June 1985, Reliance's letter of intent was converted into an industrial licence.

Interestingly, Reliance made no attempt to obtain a letter of intent or an industrial licence for a plant to manufacture paraxylene, the raw material for PTA. Instead, it sought permission to set up what it called a "raw material handling unit". But customs officials say this was a full-fledged paraxylene plant.

In applying for the unit, Reliance said the paraxylene produced from it was meant for captive use only. It also stated that the unit would have a capacity to produce 51,000 tonnes of paraxylene a year, enough to produce 75,000 tonnes of PTA.

Customs authorities question all these figures. Soon after Reliance began importing plant equipment in mid-1986, in fact, they had suspicions that the imports were meant for a PTA plant far above the approved capacity of 75,000 tonnes. Also, while the PTA plant was commissioned in May 1988 and the paraxylene plant at the end of 1988, equipment imports continued until the end of last year.

That was when customs sleuths decided to act. On two points, they felt that all was not above board. Reliance's annual report had said that from July 1988 to March 1989, a period of nine months, the company had produced 67,968 tonnes of paraxylene. This was equivalent to an annual capacity of 90,624 tonnes, far higher than the 51,000 tonne-capacity the company had claimed for its "raw material handling unit". Arguing further, the 90,624 tonnes of paraxylene could have been used to produce 1,33,270 tonnes of PTA, while the approved PTA capacity was for just 75,000 tonnes (customs officials suspect that the actual capacity is closer to 150,000 tonnes).

If the Bombay Customs can establish that Reliance's PTA and paraxylene units have double the claimed capacity, the company may have to fork out an extra Rs 100 crore in customs duty.

But tax evasion is not the only charge. While Reliance's "raw material handling unit" was meant to be producing paraxylene for captive consumption, officials claim they have seized factory gate-passes to indicate that paraxylene was sold in the open market.

There is another charge against Reliance. In July 1985, the company had applied for government permission to install new equipment saying it wanted to replace certain electrical motors with "steam-generated drive" motors. Official approval was granted in January 1986. But curiously, the list of new equipment includes a turbo-generator which is used to generate power. Customs officials believe that under the pretext of replacing equipment, Reliance had set up a power plant.

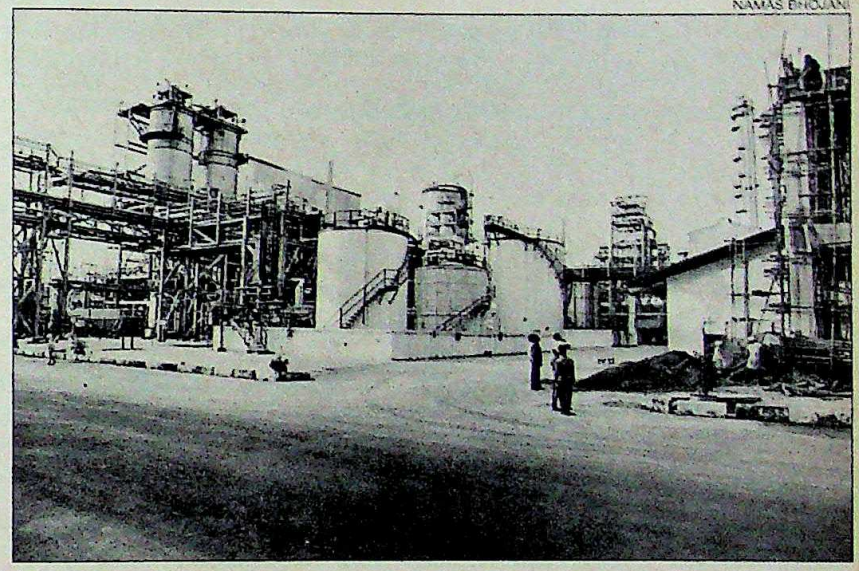
Reliance denies the accusations. It says that the condition on captive consumption of paraxylene was valid only until last year. Since then, the company says, it has been permitted to sell the material to others. Reliance also claims that it had received the Industry Ministry's consent to enhance PTA manufacturing capacity, first from 75,000 tonnes to 1 lakh tonnes, and further to 2 lakh tonnes. It says it has invested about Rs 325 crore to expand its PTA and paraxylene manufacturing capacities.

The Bombay Customs, however, isn't believing that. Early this month, a team led by Additional Collector Sumit Dutt Majumdar visited the Patalganga plant for spot verification. The next step will be a show-cause notice.

For Reliance, the end of the nightmare doesn't seem close at hand.

—RAGHU NANDAN DHAR

NAMAS BHOJANI



Reliance is charged with understating the capacities of its paraxylene and PTA units.

■ Patalganga plant (top); Dhirubhai Ambani

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

श्रेष्ठतायां कर्मणि EXCELLENCE IN DEED
VASANT VALLEY

VASANT VALLEY SCHOOL

promoted by the
INDIA TODAY GROUP
to impart quality education requires an

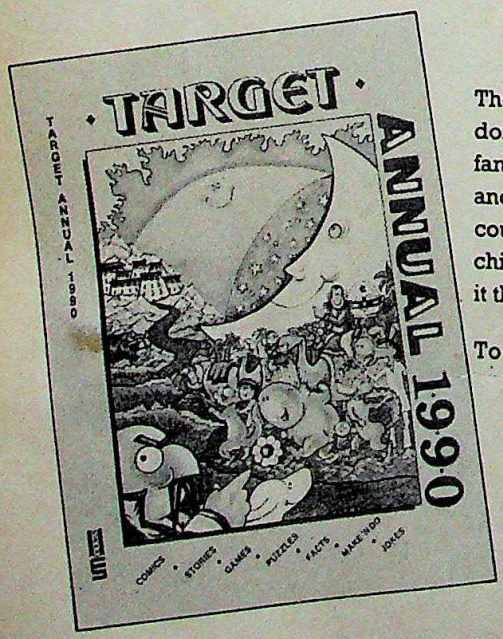
ADMINISTRATION MANAGER

The applicant should be a dynamic energetic person who will be in charge of general administration of the school including accounts, transport and maintenance of the school building. Applicant should have more than ten years experience in a similar position or in general administration. Preference will be given to retired army personnel. Attractive remuneration will be offered commensurate with experience and qualifications.

Applicants should send the bio-data alongwith passport size photograph within 15 days to:

The Secretary
Education Today
K-9, Connaught Circus
New Delhi 110001

YOUR CHILDREN WILL LOVE IT. AND THEY'LL LOVE YOU FOR IT.



The Target Annual 1990. Packed with a whole lot of fun. Over a dozen beautifully illustrated stories full of mystery and adventure, fantasy and humour, science fiction... Games and puzzles, jokes and riddles, comic strips, quizzes and activity ideas. Plus, of course, lots of amazing facts and useful information that your children will simply love going through. There's so much in it that they'll wish there was an Annual every month!

To order the Target Annual 1990, use the coupon below.

Please send a copy of Target Annual 1990. I enclose my crossed cheque/DD* no.....for Rs. 45 (add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques, i.e. outside Delhi) payable to Living Media India Ltd.

Child's Name _____
Address _____
_____ Pin _____

Mail Coupon to: Living Media India Ltd.
P.B. No. 706, Faridabad-121007, HARYANA

*Cheques/Bank Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

TARGET
The Children's Magazine

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE MARKETS

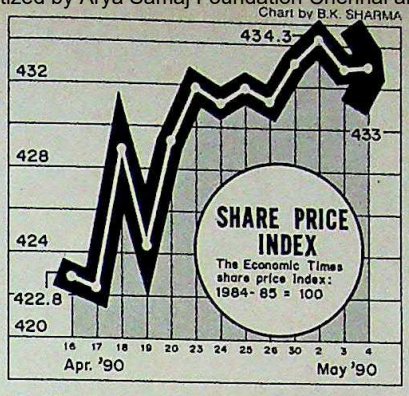
Up and Down

Share indices zigzag

AFTER a brief post-budget honeymoon, the country's capital markets remained depressed through most of April. And till early this month, there were few signs that the mood would change. Last fortnight's zigzag movement of share indices indicated that the uncertainty would prevail for a while. Since the Unit Trust of India embarked on a major selling spree in early April, the financial institutions decided to play a low-key role in the market—alternately buying and selling, but on a moderate scale.

Some observers felt that the market sentiments could be heading for a deep plunge. The basis for this dire prognosis was that the values of a number of leading scrips continued to drift even as the companies announced excellent results. Take for instance, Century Enka and Century Textiles and Industries. The two Birla companies posted higher profits and declared higher dividends. But the markets failed to respond.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



The story was repeated in Colgate Palmolive, Ponds and HMM (Hindustan Milkfood). And even in scrips which rose—Grasim Industries, Hindustan Aluminium, Essar Shipping, Telco and Bajaj Auto—the increase was hardly commensurate with expectations. Cement manufacturer Gujarat Ambuja logged a phenomenal 3,485 per cent hike in net profits (unaudited) for the last half of 1989. But here too, the price went up only 16 per cent.

Some of the well-known scrips which lost ground in the course of last fortnight were Tata Steel, Baroda Rayon, Finolex, Motor Industries and National Organic. Though the Ambanis decided to withdraw from their tussle with the Government over the control of Larsen & Toubro, the company's share price as well as that of Reliance Industries declined. L&T stood at Rs 70 against this year's high of Rs 122 and Reliance ended the fortnight at Rs 65.50, nearly Rs 25 below this year's peak.

When trading closed on May 4, the all-India *Economic Times* index stood at 433, nearly nine points higher than the level touched on April 19, but a good 10 points below the April 4 high of 443.1. The 100-scrips national index of the Bombay Stock Exchange (BSE) too went up from 409.55 to 418.89 between April 19 and May 3. But what gave the story away was the movement of the BSE's sensitive index. The index crossed the 800-mark on May 2—not far from the April 4 peak of 805.86—only to crash to 779.22 the next day.

Meanwhile, concerned about the rise in prices, the Government announced that it would initiate harsh steps if producers of cement, sugar and edible oils did not roll back prices. Thus, even as the prospects of a war with Pakistan seemed to be receding into the background, the stock-markets preferred to play it cool in anticipation of hotter days ahead. All in all, it was a period of waiting and watching.

ACTIVE STOCKS

	1990 HIGH	1990 LOW	CLOSE 4.5.90	Change in Fortnight
Ashok Leyland	99.00	69.50	89.00	9.00 +
Associated Cement	444.00	325.00	434.00	2.00 +
Asian Paints	255.00	207.50	233.75	5.00 +
Atlas Copco	48.00	32.50	37.00	4.00 +
Bajaj Auto	467.50	355.00	457.50	23.75 +
Baroda Rayon	910.00	617.50	842.50	15.00 –
Bata India	83.00	62.50	74.00	3.00 –
Ballarpur	161.00	120.00	153.00	8.00 +
Birla Jute	75.75	50.50	74.50	5.00 +
Blow Plast	57.50	34.50	51.25	2.50 +
Bombay Dyeing	231.00	173.00	203.00	2.00 +
Britannia Ind.	119.00	97.00	115.00	1.00 –
Brooke Bond	118.00	91.00	115.50	1.50 +
Century Textiles	3420.00	2420.00	3170.00	10.00 +
Chloride India	92.00	82.50	87.00	1.00 –
Colgate Palmolive	233.75	176.25	205.00	5.00 –
Cyanamid	115.00	87.50	106.00	11.00 +
DCM	60.00	45.50	54.00	2.75 –
Dunlop	75.50	51.75	66.00	10.00 +
EL Hotels	65.25	57.50	59.50	0.50 –
Escorts	90.00	77.75	87.00	2.00 +
Finolex Cables	282.50	200.00	205.00	7.50 –
Nestle India	129.00	101.75	118.50	0.50 –
Garware Nylon	69.00	49.00	52.00	nill
G.E. Shipping	54.75	44.00	50.50	0.25 +
G.S.F.C.	195.00	155.00	177.50	3.75 +
Grasim Ind.	133.00	106.00	128.50	5.00 +
Hind. Aluminium	292.50	205.00	283.75	2.50 +
Hind. Ciba	1660.00	960.00	1280.00	10.00 +
Cadbury India	172.50	133.75	158.75	4.75 +
Hindustan Lever	125.00	101.00	115.25	2.75 +
Hindustan Motors	31.30	19.80	29.80	3.30 +
ICI India Ltd.	49.50	36.25	37.50	1.00 –
Indian Organic	58.75	46.50	54.50	4.50 +
Indian Rayon	113.50	84.00	108.50	2.00 +
Indrol	246.25	161.25	222.50	15.00 +
Ingersoll-Rand	245.00	190.00	220.00	nil
ITC	70.00	48.75	67.50	1.50 –
J.K. Synthetics	67.00	50.00	57.00	nil
Kinetic Engineering	155.00	130.00	142.50	2.50 –
Kirloskar Cummins	90.00	65.00	74.00	1.00 –
KSB Pumps	227.50	190.00	226.25	1.25 +
Larsen & Toubro	122.00	57.00	70.00	5.00 –
Lipton	112.00	83.00	90.00	1.00 –
LML Ltd.	21.00	15.00	16.50	0.25 +
Madura Coats	115.50	100.50	111.00	3.00 –
Mahindra & Mahindra	103.00	67.50	86.25	1.25 –
Milk Food	280.00	170.00	190.00	10.00 +
Motor Industries	1200.00	785.00	820.00	40.00 –
Mukand Ltd.	157.00	127.00	133.00	1.00 –
National Organic	1660.00	1070.00	1230.00	50.00 –
Nirlon	22.00	14.00	15.00	1.00 –
Orkay Silk Mills	20.50	14.50	15.25	0.75 –
Pelco Electronics	32.50	24.00	27.50	0.50 –
Pfizer	113.75	72.50	80.00	4.00 +
Premier Auto	74.50	53.50	62.00	2.50 +
Ranbaxy	110.00	86.25	95.00	1.25 –
Raymond	87.50	70.00	81.50	1.00 +
Reliance Industries	90.00	50.00	65.50	8.50 –
Siemens India	123.50	96.00	112.00	nil
Shaw Wallace	92.00	65.00	90.00	3.00 +
Shriram Fibres	71.00	51.25	56.00	1.00 +
SKF Bearings	1570.00	1240.00	1350.00	nil
SPIC	62.00	50.75	56.00	1.50 –
Tata Steel	136.50	103.25	116.75	7.75 –
Telco	153.00	110.00	150.50	5.50 +
Vam Organic	167.50	132.50	137.50	5.00 –
Videocon Int.	230.00	105.00	228.75	16.25 +
Voltas	78.50	63.00	73.75	0.25 –
Wimco	32.50	15.75	17.00	0.50 +

WORLD VALUE OF RUPEE

COUNTRY	CURRENCY	UNIT	TT Selling Rates Rs	TT Buying Rates Rs
Australia	Dollar	1	13.1909	13.0457
Austria	Shilling	100	147.7419	147.1122
Bahrain	Dinar	1	46.4981	45.4112
Bangladesh	Taka	100	55.3549	53.9258
Canada	Dollar	1	15.0071	14.8454
Denmark	Kroner	1	2.7616	2.7313
Egypt	Pound	1	6.7584	6.6370
France	Franc	1	3.1696	3.0912
Hong Kong	Dollar	1	2.2376	2.2142
Indonesia	Rupiah	100	0.9528	0.9378
Iran	Rial	100	25.5368	25.2559
Italy	Lira	100	1.4304	1.4133
Japan	Yen	100	11.1982	10.9170
Kenya	Shilling	1	0.8073	0.7982
Kuwait	Dinar	1	59.5112	57.5209
Malaysia	Dollar	1	6.4449	6.3759
Mauritius	Rupee	1	1.1862	1.1699
Nepal	Rupee	1	0.6086	0.6002
Netherlands	Guilder	1	9.3245	9.2181
Pakistan	Rupee	1	0.8303	0.8178
Singapore	Dollar	1	9.3110	9.2097
Spain	Peseta	1	0.1677	0.1653
Sri Lanka	Rupee	1	0.4365	0.4314
Sweden	Kroner	1	2.8721	2.8405
Switzerland	Franc	1	12.1316	11.9977
Tanzania	Shilling	1	0.0969	0.0933
Thailand	Baht	100	67.5845	66.1159
UK	Pound	1	28.9143	28.7068
USA	Dollar	1	17.4368	17.2563
UAE	Dirham	1	4.7499	4.6969
USSR	Rouble	1	28.1012	27.7879
W. Germany	Deutschmark	1	10.6496	10.3842

These rates were supplied by The Bank of Tokyo Limited, New Delhi and quoted between the banks on 7.5.90.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

COUNT ON ISPAT PROFILES FOR HIGH QUALITY AND DEPEND-ABILITY EVERY TIME

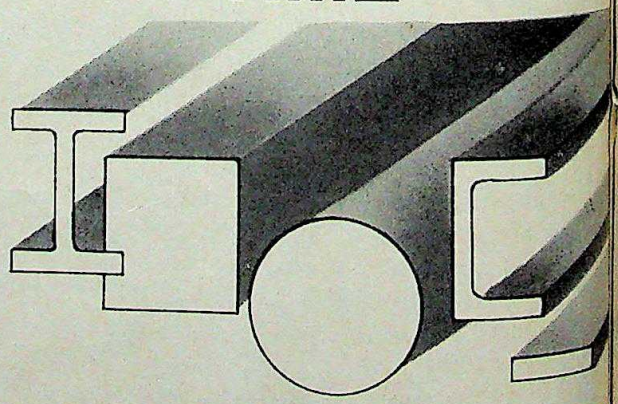
ISPAT

At ISPAT PROFILES, we don't just roll steel; we start out right from steel making. Our facilities are among the finest in the world — a computer controlled UHP Furnace, a Robot to control ladle movement, Ladle Refining Furnace, VD, VOD, Electromagnetic Bloom Caster, Bloom Reheating Furnace and a Sophisticated Universal Mill — the only one of its kind in India. And state-of-the-art quality control and testing facilities.

Naturally, our steel is virtually zero defect. Besides such sophisticated items like Rails and H-Beams, we also offer a wide range of Channels, Joists, Beams and Special Carbon and Alloy Steels.

So, next time you order steel, make sure its from ISPAT PROFILES. It's your guarantee of steel of the highest quality.

I Beams	300x140, 250x125, 200 x 100, 150x75,125x70
Channels	300 x 90, 250 x 80/82, 200 x 75/76
H-Beams	152 x 152/150 x 150
Wide Flange Beams 8" x 6" (200 x 150)	
Special Carbon & Alloy Steels	
Rounds	80 to 125 mm dia.
Squares	63 mm to 180 mm Sq.
Blooms	200 mm Sq., 250 mm Sq., 320 mm x 220 mm
Rails	75 and 90 lbs./yard.
Stainless Steel Flats 180 mm x 20 mm	



For further details, please contact:

ISPAT

ISPAT PROFILES INDIA LIMITED
Mahendra Chambers, 4 Dhole Patil Road,
Pune 411 001.
Tel: 669591/2/3 Telex: 0145-230 IPIL IN
Fax: (0212) - 669161

Branch Office Telephone Nos.

CALCUTTA	:	294395, 295102
BOMBAY	:	2045134, 2873726
DELHI	:	501803, 501804
MADRAS	:	863576
RAJKOT	:	23606

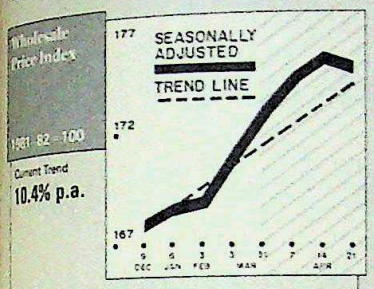
Changing the profile of Steel.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

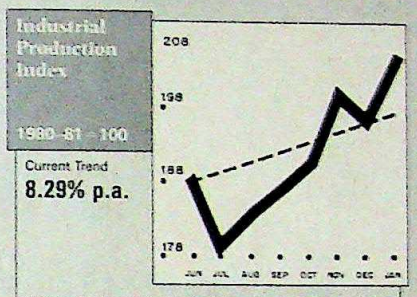
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The best news of the last fortnight was that the industry bounced back after much effort and finally shrugged off the disturbing signs of recession. Manufacturing, in particular, grew sharply which was greatly encouraging. One problem, however, continued—power generation remained stagnant yet again. It was a clear indication that the National Front Government must take firm measures to improve efficiency in their infrastructure sector.

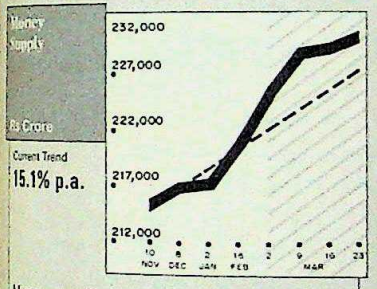
All data are seasonally adjusted. Current trends are computed on the basis of six months' (weekly data) or one-and-a-half years' (monthly data) figures.



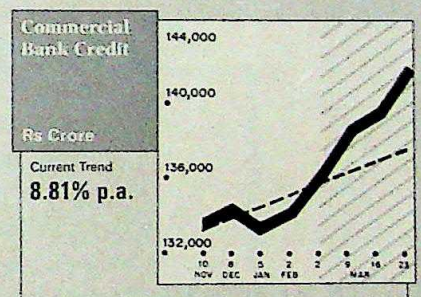
Wholesale prices continued to creep up again last fortnight, but inflation recorded a rate below double digits.



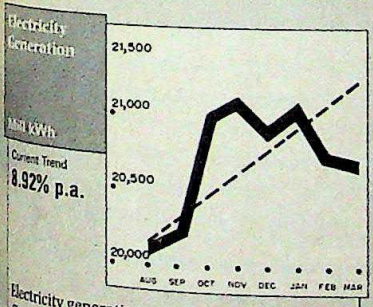
With industrial production showing a sharp increase, it was an excellent month for industry after a disappointing earlier spell.



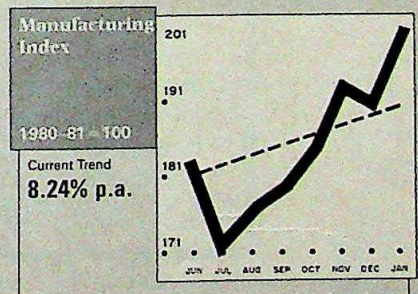
Money supply is well under control—the Government's management of liquidity has been very good.



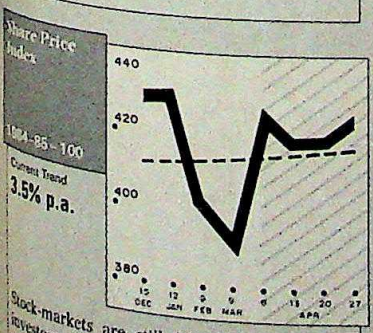
Credit conditions were very relaxed last fortnight, a welcome sign for industry. But the long-term trend is still tight.



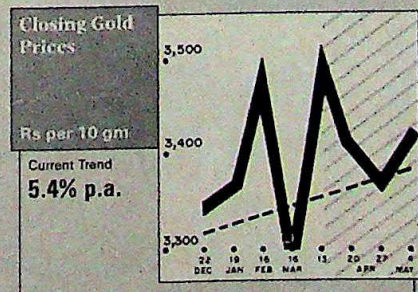
Electricity generation remained stagnant. If the Government does not take action, this may develop into a bottleneck.



The manufacturing output registered a sharp increase in the last fortnight to its highest level in a year.



Stock-markets are still full of uncertainty—investors are still unclear over the precise impact of the budget.



The prices of gold fluctuated wildly in the last fortnight—finally ending up at a slightly higher level.

WHOLESALE PRICES

Growth of items in the 2nd fortnight of March 1990

	% Growth
Aviation Spirit	16.20
Boilers	14.84
Onions	14.03
Cement	10.94
Mustard Oilcake	9.89
Gram	9.72
Tobacco Raw	7.89
Wheat	6.49
Khandsari	6.13
Petrol	5.72
Groundnut Seeds	5.27
Arhar	5.21
Mustard Oil	4.95
Linseed Oil	4.94
Rape & Mustard Seeds	4.81
Barley	4.58
Gingelly Oil	4.39
Oranges	4.37
Eggs	4.31
Solvent Extracted Oil	4.18
Masoor	4.15
Diesel Oil	3.66
Cars	3.14
Groundnut Oil	3.11
Cigarettes	2.45
Groundnut Oilcake	2.33
Lubricating Oil	2.23
Gingelly Seed	2.11
Zinc	2.10
Iron Ore	2.03
Silk Raw	2.03
Maize	2.01
Handloom & Powerloom Products	1.89
Linseed	1.75
Furnace Oil	1.67
Hides Raw	1.62
Ragi	1.61
Coffee	1.52
Urad	1.39
Board	1.39
Fish	1.32
Kerosene	1.29
Ghee	1.13
Logs Timber Bamboo	1.03
Polythene Moulding Powder	0.99
Phosphatic Fertilisers	0.92
Cycles	0.84

Of the 137 series considered, 73 of them with a total weight of 43.258 had a positive growth and 61 of them with a total weight of 41.594 had a negative growth.

SELECTED INDICATORS

	1990	1989
Petroleum Crude		
Thousand Tonnes, March	3002	2932
Petroleum Refinery Products		
Thousand Tonnes, March	4575	4540
Letters of Intent Issued		
Number, March	496	282
Industrial Licences Issued		
Number, March	187	114
Call Money Rate		
Per Cent, March	190.96	99.86

Compiled by THE POLICY GROUP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

For the discerning Indian traveller

The Everest Hotel presents

Experience Everest

A feature filled, value for money 5 star deluxe package

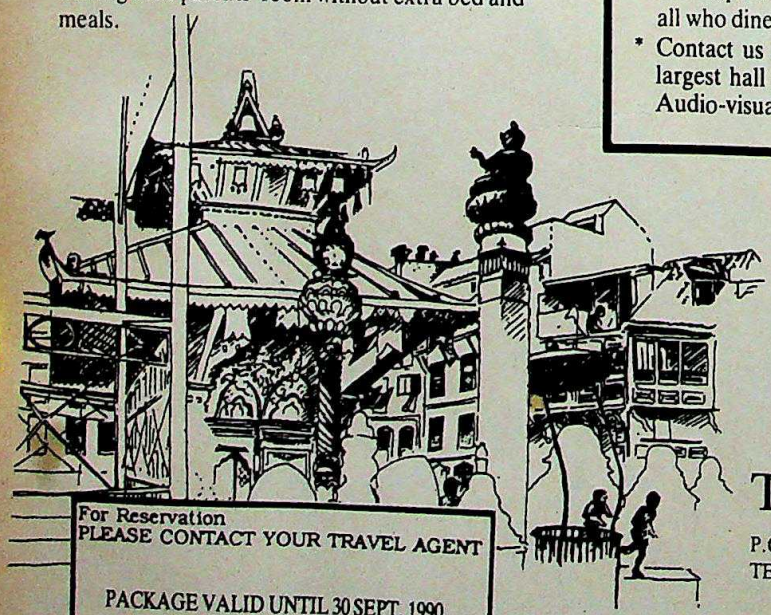
INR 2678.00 per person on twin sharing basis
INR 4222.00 for single room

Package includes :

- 3 nights 4 days accommodation, queen size bed on twin sharing basis.
- Two half day guided sightseeing tours.
- Airport-Hotel-Airport transfers.
- Daily choice of Continental or Indian Breakfast in our restaurant. "The Cafe"
- All taxes included on package items.
- Free Welcome Drink on arrival.
- Free Deluxe Fruit Basket in the room.
- Free entrance to "Galaxy", the only 5 star discotheque in Kathmandu.
- Free hourly Courtesy Coach into town and back between 9 am. and 8 pm.
- Free Casino Courtesy Coach between 8 pm. and 11 pm.
- Free swimming, tennis and gymnasium.
- Free – a maximum of 2 children under 12 years sharing their parents' room without extra bed and meals.

Special Features

- 30% discount on all beverages in our bar, the "Himalayan Tavern", between 6.30 pm and 8 pm.
- Our main restaurant, "The Cafe" features "Nepali Night" every Sunday. Tuesday and Thursday, with Nepali cultural folk dances and songs and authentic Nepali food, at INR 150.00 per person.
- Our Indian restaurant, the "Far Pavilion", offers Mughlai and Tandoori dishes. Located on the seventh floor, the panoramic views of the Himalayas and the city are unparalled. Finally, Nepal's foremost ghazal singer, Anand Karki, performs six nights a week, a superlative delight to all who dine at the restaurant.
- Contact us for attractive conference rates. We have the largest hall in town seating 750 people with all standard Audio-visual facilities and conference aids available.



For Reservation
PLEASE CONTACT YOUR TRAVEL AGENT

PACKAGE VALID UNTIL 30 SEPT. 1990.

The Everest Hotel

P.O. BOX 659, BANESWOR, KATHMANDU, NEPAL
TEL : 220567 FAX : 977-1-226088 TELEX : 2260 HOTEVS IN

A place for the discerning traveller !

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Not a Drop to Drink

By BUNKER ROY

ACCORDING to the babus, bureaucrats and super-technocrats there's supposed to be water, water everywhere in rural India. Or at least in about half of India's 583,000-odd villages by 1990.

Yet, for millions of the country's villagers, there's not a drop to drink. And this tragic fact notwithstanding the Technology Mission's fatuous claim that in 1989 only 132,560 villages remained to be provided with a safe drinking water source. Any thorough investigation will reveal that these claims are but one more example of the Big Lie with which the Government periodically dupes its citizens.

The supply of clean drinking water is not impossible. But it is made to remain an impossibility by local bureaucrats and engineers who want to protect their turf and thereby prevent the people most capable of finding the solutions—the villagers themselves—from taking charge of the problem and in the process, their own lives. Big Brother Engineer knows best. Distrustful of devolution of more responsibilities to village panchayats, he insists that the provision of drinking water is a technical problem that cannot—and must not—be demystified.

However, the problem is not technical. It is social. The purely technical approach has resulted in colossal waste running into thousands of crores of rupees. For example, the generation of information through costly scientific source-finding methods of satellites by different departments (Central Ground Water Board, state water boards, ISRO, NRSA) is never really used by the on-the-spot well driller. The driller, in most cases, selects the site after a casual talk in a village tea-shop.

The waste of money and inefficiency are constantly compounded: poor ground water surveys lead to boring where there's no water and often overstaffed water boards and public health engineering departments exhaust the resources meant for the rural poor. Also hand pumps, open wells and piped water are provided to villages through such a plethora of departmental schemes with different rules and regulations that while some villages get water, thousands of others remain dry or receive only brackish, contaminated water with high content of fluorides, iron and salinity. And yet even this poisonous brew and the pipes and pumps that propel it into rural buckets are included in government statistics as "drinking water" success stories.

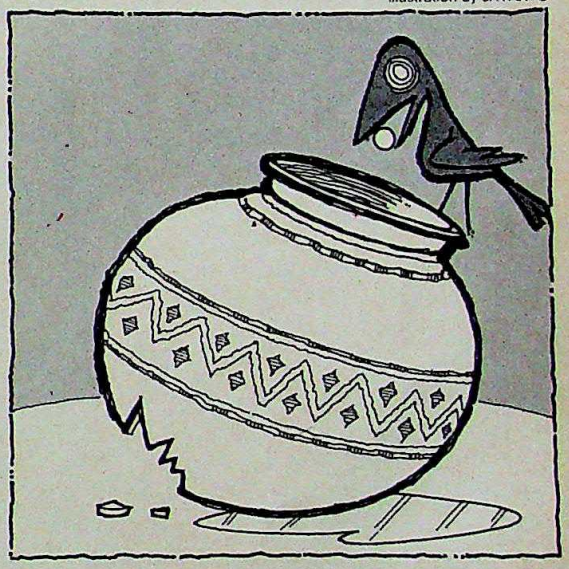
Like war is too complicated an issue to be decided by generals alone, the problems of drinking water cannot be tackled by engineers and urban-based experts alone. The community, the real beneficiaries, must be consulted at every stage. Not because of some utopian ideal but because, in village India, *the community knows best*. But the Government has been consistently reluctant to look at the community point of view. The only problem, the governmentwallahs insist—after they have wasted precious money—is a lack of adequate financial resources! And yet, tackling the social issues—community control—is essential to introduce overall efficiency and success. Some examples:

► Government documents state the hand pump or the piped water supply system is a community asset. Yet, when they break down, the community must take permission to repair it and remain without water until the bureaucratic hassles are resolved.

► It does not make sense that a junior engineer or overseer should decide whether a village has adequate potable drinking water. This should be the decision of the users of the water.

► In the site selection for the location of hand pumps it is essential that the women are also consulted as a rule. The excuse for not consulting women is that they will not understand technical surveys. But, in point of fact, these expensive surveys are never used.

Illustration by JAYANTO



► The choice of technology is also a social issue crying out for community involvement. In shallow water-table regions like the Indo-Gangetic plains, the Uttar Pradesh Jal Nigam is wasting crores of rupees by installing deep-well India Mark II hand pumps when they are technically not required. The users prefer locally-made shallow hand pumps, but they are ignored.

The battle lines have already been drawn on the maintenance of hand pumps. While the Government maintenance cost of hand pumps is Rs 1,000, it has been proven that community-maintenance reduces the cost to Rs 300 a year. Slowly, Rajasthan has adopted the local maintenance scheme under which 40,000 hand pumps in nine districts are covered. This has generated employment among village youth, instilled a feeling of self-respect in them, and freed villages of at least one suffocating tentacle of the Government.

Elsewhere there is still resistance because this idea has come from the community. But the idea is one whose time has come. A small beginning, perhaps, in the war for water. But at least one right step in the direction of self-reliance. And dignity.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

AIRBUS DEAL

Stunning Disclosures

Evidence shows purchase approved by Rajiv's office

THERE seems to be no end to the thunderbolts that keep hitting the Congress(I) and its leader Rajiv Gandhi with stunning regularity. Even as the inquiry into the Bofors deal entered a crucial stage, the party was hit by yet another one last fortnight: publication of a crucial note suggesting that the Rs 2,000-crore Airbus deal was cleared directly by Rajiv Gandhi's office when he was prime minister. Pointing yet another finger of suspicion at the deal, Civil Aviation Minister Arif Mohammed Khan disclosed that a crucial file concerning the deal was missing.

In fact, the controversial note signed by the then cabinet secretary, P.K. Kaul, and the former civil aviation secretary, Dr S.S. Sidhu, made it clear that the decision to opt for the Airbus was taken in Rajiv Gandhi's office where ministers like Ashok Gehlot and senior officials like Gopi Arora were also present. This meeting took place on August 5, 1985, after Rajiv Gandhi's return from his official trip to Paris in June 1985. The Indian Airlines board met soon after on August 30, and decided to purchase 19 A-320 aircraft, the design for which was then still on the drawing board. The National Front Government had lodged an FIR last month, charging Sidhu and others for their dubious role in the deal.

The basic issue of reinducting 14 Airbuses grounded since February 1990—four days after the Bangalore aircrash in which 90 people died—was lost in the din of parliamentary furore. Meanwhile, after dithering for over three months, the Government finally announced last fortnight that it would not allow the Airbus to fly again till the final report of the court of inquiry headed by a high court judge was ready.

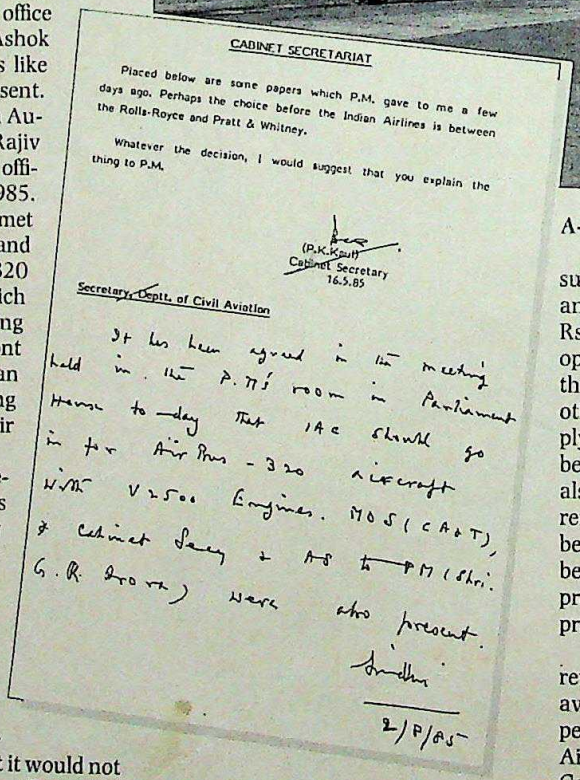
The committee, headed by Air Vice-Marshal Shashi Ramdass, submitted its interim report on March 5, favouring phased reintroduction of the Airbus. But no one in the Government, including Khan, was willing to take the risk. Khan, instead, sent all cabinet ministers copies of the report which was quite damaging on some aspects of the Airbus deal. It demolished, for instance, the airlines' earlier claim that inducting the plane would not entail any additional requirements for ground support and training. The committee concluded that: "They (IA) also do not appear to have taken into account the prevailing conditions in the airline and whether it was ready to accept such sophisticated aircraft in the short period."

The interim report adds: "There was lack of detailed planning for induction of the aircraft and a lack of co-ordination amongst various departments." It also discovered that the aircraft was suffering from defects like smoke in the cabin, pressurisation, hydraulics, auxiliary power unit and nose steering failures. Considering this, the Government could hardly reinduct the aircraft into the fleet.

Neither could the Government shut its eye to the fact that Indian Airlines was suffering a weekly loss of Rs 2.50 crore and had already wiped out the profit of Rs 30 crore which it made last year. The options being discussed include offering the 14 grounded aircraft for lease to other airlines and rescheduling the supply of four aircraft which are shortly to be delivered. The Airbus officials were also asked to postpone delivery of the remaining 12 aircraft which was to begin next year. Airbus Industrie should be happy since it can make more of a profit by selling the aircraft at a higher price than that contracted with India.

The government decision has also revived the cold war between the two aviation giants—Boeing and the European consortium which produces the Airbus. During the next six months, the Government has to finalise the purchase of about 20 aircraft for both Air India and Indian Airlines. Though Airbus is out of favour with Indian Airlines, its 340 version is one of the four front runners in Air India's list. With such major contracts at stake, it is certain that the politics of aviation is going to become murkier.

—PRABHU CHAWLA



CABINET SECRETARIAT

Placed below are some papers which P.M. gave to me a few days ago. Perhaps the choice before the Indian Airlines is between the Rolls-Royce and Pratt & Whitney.

Whatever the decision, I would suggest that you explain the thing to P.M.

(P.K. Kaul)
Cabinet Secretary
16.5.85

Secretary, Deptt. of Civil Aviation

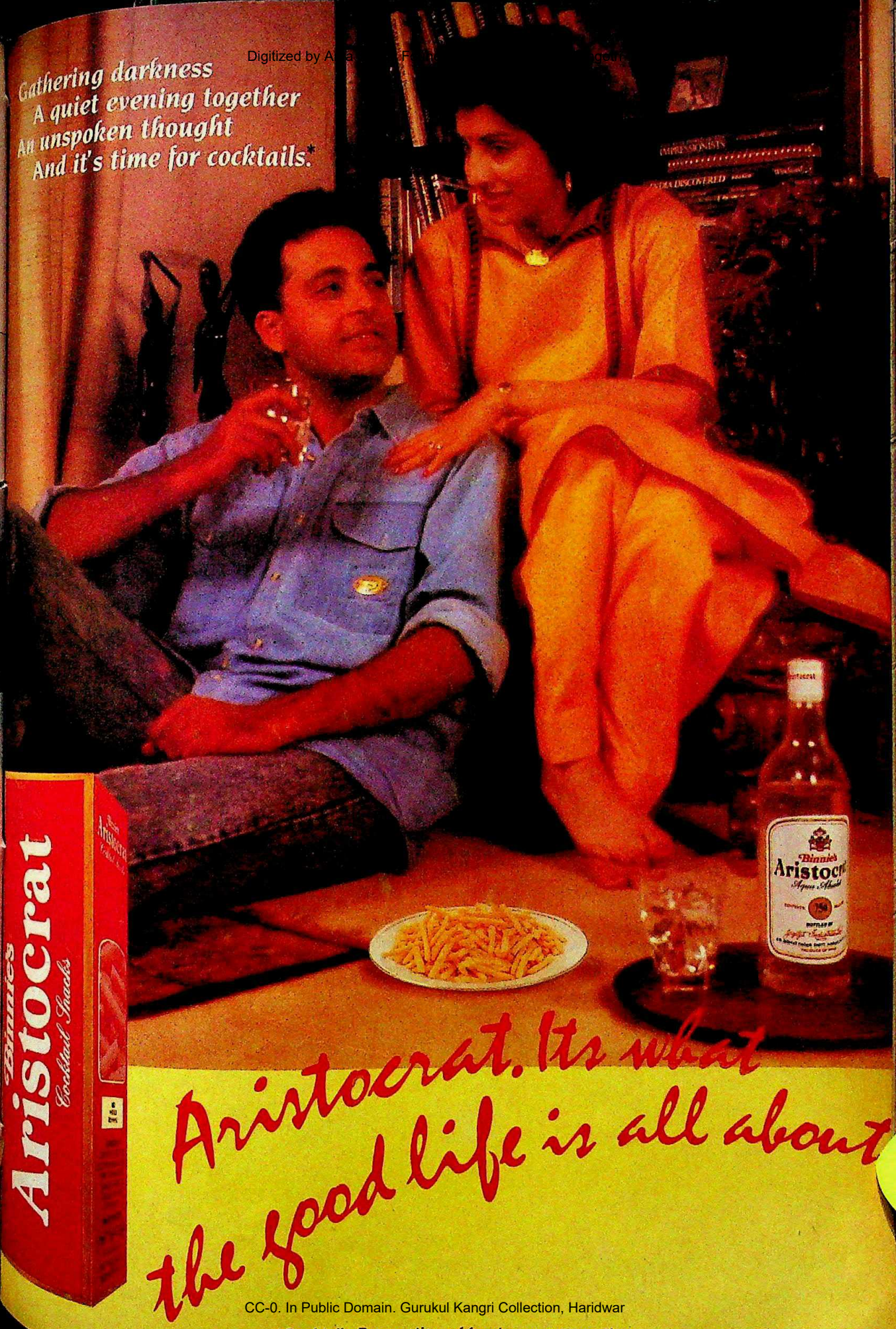
It has been agreed in the meeting held in the P.M's room in Parliament House today that IAC should go in for Airbus-320 aircraft with V2500 Engines. MOS (CA&T), & Cabinet Secy & AS to PM (Shri G.K. Arora) were also present.

Sidhu
2/P/85

A-320 Airbus; and the revelatory note

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

***Cocktail** : Preparation of food, esp. as appetizer ...

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

OUR MISSION

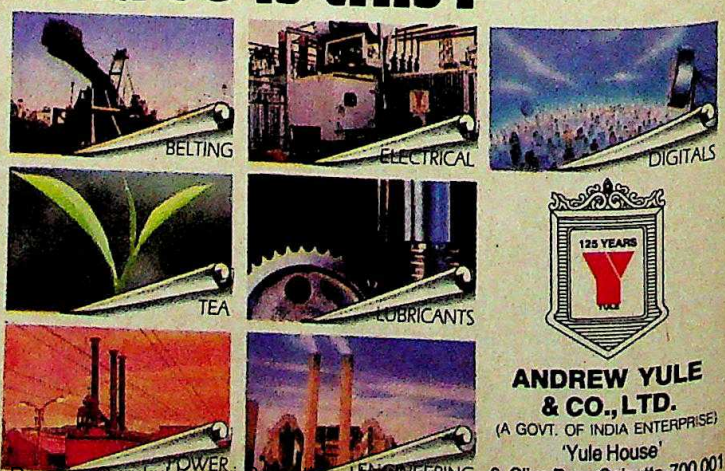
20,000 people committed to professionalism and national prosperity... a work culture based on growth, profitability and social justice.

This is Yule !

And so is this !

For 125 years we have withstood the winds of change — from Managing Agency House to Multidimensional Government Enterprise. Diversifying into hi-tech areas by adapting to the ever changing environment and meeting the challenge of competition, has been our strategy.

A Company of professionals with confidence in its positive leadership and committed workforce.



Many Technologies – One Name

125 YEARS

ANDREW YULE & CO., LTD.
(A GOVT. OF INDIA ENTERPRISE)
'Yule House'
8, Clive Row, Calcutta-700 001

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

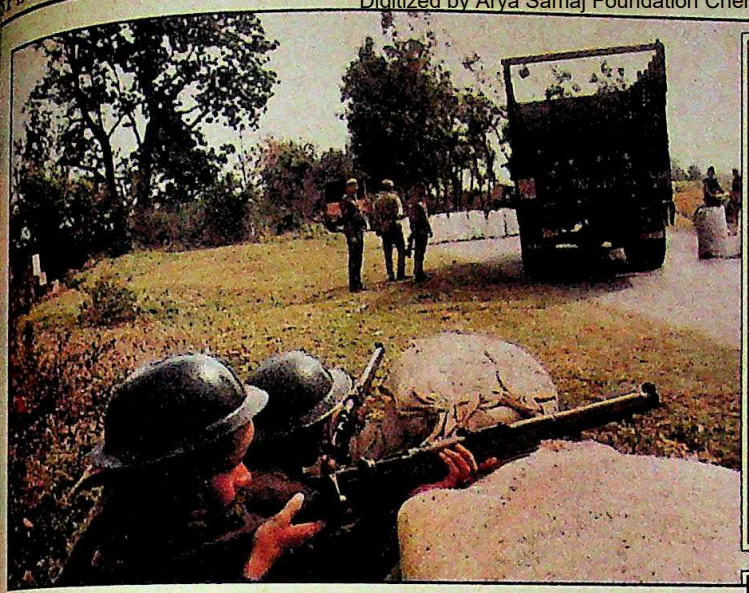
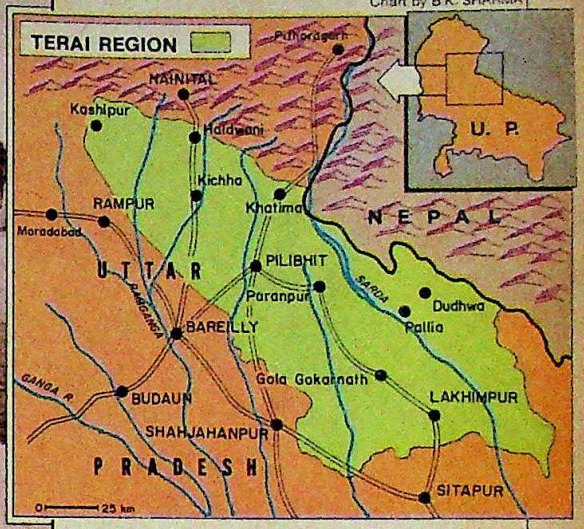
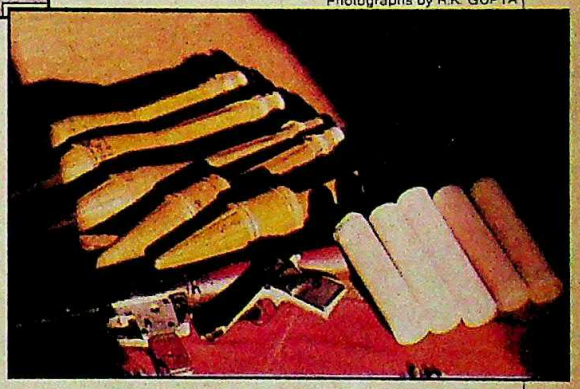


Chart by B.K. SHARMA



Photographs by R.K. GUPTA



TERAI

Terrorism's New Threat

Punjab terrorists establish a new base

Police pickets on Haldwani-Rudrapur road; and (above) rockets and rocket launchers recovered in Puranpur

THE Terai region in the idyllic foothills of the Himalayas in northern Uttar Pradesh is fertile terrain—agriculture is the mainstay of the economy. The area—covering five districts—is known locally as 'mini-Punjab' because Sikhs own 60 per cent of the agricultural land in the region and form about 15 per cent of the population (30 to 40 per cent in Terai towns like Bajpur, Kashipur, Khatima and Pallia).

But that is precisely why the Terai today has become equally fertile ground for terrorists from Punjab. The undulating landscape stretching into the thick forests of the Himalayan ranges and the *jhalas* (farm houses), situated a kilometre or two from each other across the terrain, provide perfect cover. Moroever, either because of threats or sympathy, local Sikh farmers have been providing terrorists with safe hideouts.

What is more dangerous is that from merely using the Terai as a place of shelter, the terrorists have lately started active operations in the area, throwing the local law enforcement agencies into a panic. "They could be wanting to create trouble here to pressure the Government by spreading their activity outside Punjab," says S.M. Nasem, DIG of the Nainital range.

The recent spurt in terrorist activity, especially the half a dozen AK 47 attacks between December 1989 and April 1990 in the Pilibhit area, seems to support that fear and throw up enough evidence that the terrorists have managed to build a base in the region.

Last fortnight, terrorists in Terai gunned down five people—all members of local Sikh families—on suspicion that they were police informers. Four of the victims, including a woman, were killed in three separate incidents in Pilibhit, where the police have made large arms seizures in the last couple of months. Says Pilibhit Superintendent of Police S.P. Srivastava: "Probably because most of the arms consignments of the terrorists have been recovered in Pilibhit, the terrorists have decided to launch a counter-offensive."

These are only the latest in a dangerously rising trend in the Terai area.

► On February 6, a bomb burst in the crowded Laxmi Talkies of Haldwani, killing six persons and injuring 64.

► On April 13, armed terrorists raided a farm house in Richaura village and killed the owner Puran Singh and his wife. The terrorists left behind a note announcing that the couple had been killed as they were police informers.

► On April 17, the *jhala* of Kashmir Singh in Bilsenda was attacked. He fired back but one of his men Balkar Singh fell to terrorists' bullets.

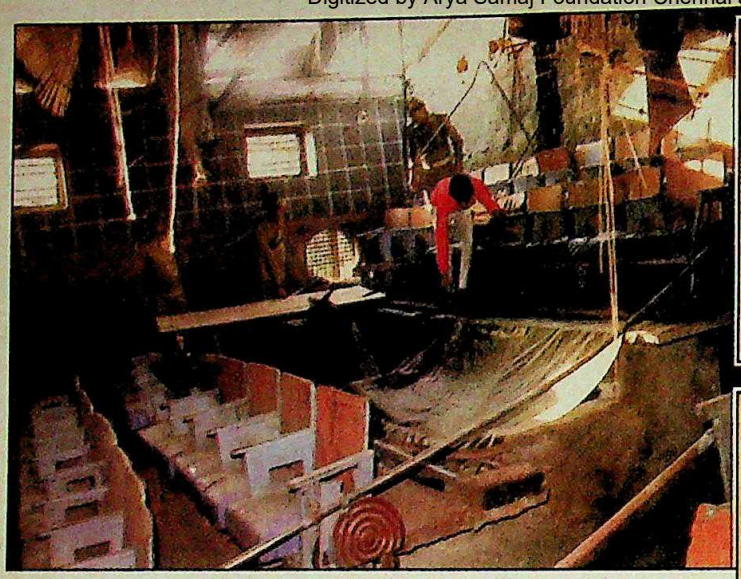
► On April 22, probably the same gang shot dead Ajaayab Singh, the son-in-law of Balkar Singh. In all these cases the police recovered AK 47 shells from the spot. Says Srivastava: "We have registered all the four cases under the Anti-Terrorists Act and we have identified the gang behind these killings."

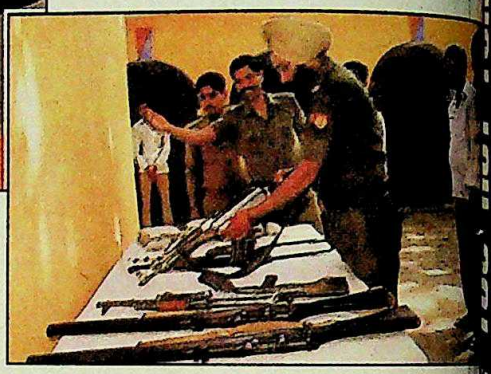
► On March 12, three people on a motorcycle pumped bullets into a constable who stopped them on the Haldwani-Rudrapur road, killing him.

One of the three assailants was none other than the wanted terrorist Resham Singh, with a reward of Rs 25,000 on his head. He had been living in Beria village since October 1988, running a clinic under the name of Dr Veer Singh. A search of the clinic revealed an exit hidden beneath the stretcher on which the fake doctor used to examine patients.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





The police are hamstrung in their efforts to combat the terrorists and the Sikh farmers of the Terai belt are a frightened and demoralised lot.

(Clockwise from top) Tractor trolley from which weapons were recovered; seized weapons; damaged cinema hall

► On March 25, a bomb burst in a cinema in Kashipur killing eight people and injuring 12. Police suspect that the Resham Singh gang is behind the blasts.

► More recently terrorists looted Rs 75,000 from a bank in Kashipur.

For the police and administration, the nature of the terrain and the large number of Sikh farmers in the area mean that they are severely handicapped in their anti-terrorist strategy. Sikh families living in farms (ranging from 50 acres to 200 acres or more) have by now become used to the midnight knock by terrorists who roam the region. "*Singh bande aaye ne*" (Sikh brothers have come), the terrorists usually announce after the knock. The farmer has only two options: open the door and offer food and shelter or be killed. Though most harbour the terrorists out of fear, there are a large number of them, say the police, who are actively involved in helping the terrorists build a base close to Punjab.

That alone paints an explosive picture. In a recent case, a police picket tried to stop a tractor-trailer at the Dudhiya Khurd railway station, 10 km from the Puranpur tehsil of Pilibhit. The occupants fired at the picket and then fled, abandoning the tractor. The ownership of the tractor was traced to a local farmer, Sukhvinder Singh of Panpur. The police became suspicious when Sukhvinder was obviously getting desperate and even offered them a bribe of Rs 25,000 to get the vehicle released. And surely enough, a search of the tractor-trailer revealed a hidden cache of deadly weaponry.

The police arrested Sukhvinder and his son for harbouring terrorists. Investigations revealed that the well-known terrorist Darshan Singh Ghora, a 'general' of the Bhindranwale Tiger Force (BTF) had brought the trolley from Punjab loaded on a truck and got the tractor from Sukhvinder.

THE Ghora gang is known to be operating in the region. Ghora led a raid on the State Bank of India branch in Gola Gokarnath in September last year and shot dead a guard. According to police sources, Ghora has brought in a fresh supply of arms, including rockets, to replenish his armoury.

The police are ill-equipped to deal with the situation because of lack of sophisticated firearms or communications to match that of the terrorists. So far, they have had limited success—they have managed to arrest some listed terrorists—but are obviously badly placed to handle the growing menace. "We distinguish between a normal criminal and a terrorist when he fires with a AK 47 rifle. And once he does that we can not get anywhere near him because we have nothing to defend ourselves with," says a senior police officer.

If the police are hamstrung in their efforts to combat the terrorist menace, the Sikh farmers of the Terai belt are a frightened and demoralised lot. "All the police activity and also the terrorists' attacks give us a second rate citizen status—something we never felt earlier," says retired army captain G.S. Randhawa, 45, who has a farm in Bajpur.

That is perhaps inevitable. Investigations by Central and state agencies have established that terrorists like Nirmal Singh alias Nimma, Sukhdeo Singh alias Sukha (both arrested in connection with General Vaidya's murder) and Harjinder Singh Jinda have operated and found refuge at some stage or the other in the Terai region.

Says A.P. Misra, inspector general of the Bareilly Zone who heads the anti-terrorists operation in the Terai: "The recent cases were aimed to create terror. These were not just survival crimes which the terrorists have been committing in the past in this region."

His words sound an ominous warning. With the police ill-equipped to handle the new threat, the administration wary of its political ramifications and the local population under constant tension, the Terai is well on its way to becoming another dangerous breeding ground for terrorism.

—DILIP AWASTHI in Terai

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

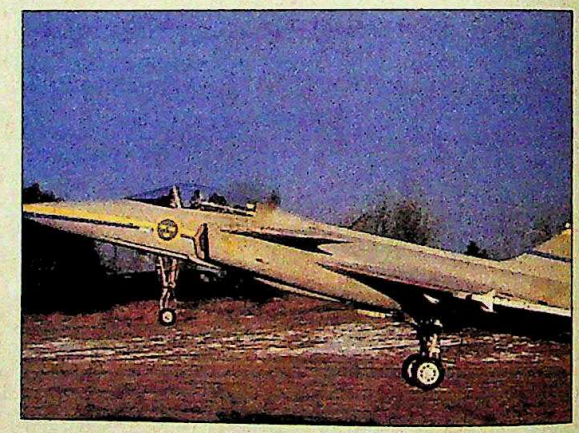
0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

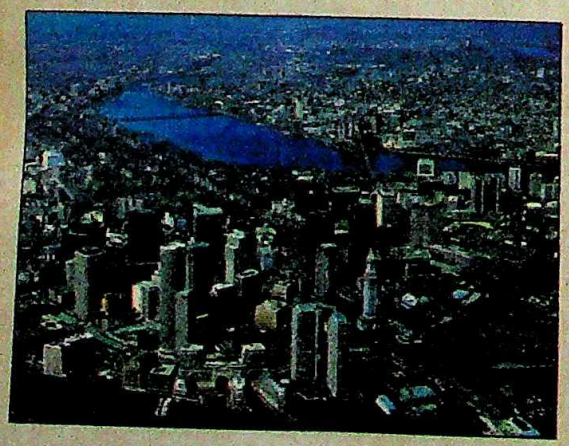
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Now that Rolta have sold the world's most sophisticated CAD/CAM systems, they're ready to make them.

Rolta have been marketing and supporting the world's most sophisticated Intergraph CAD/CAM systems for over three years in India. And have emerged as the leading company in India to offer "Total solutions" to their customers. Made possible by a massive investment of Rs. 25 crores in infrastructure along with a highly specialised, highly skilled manpower bank of over 300 people committed to the customers.

Today, Intergraph CAD/CAM systems are being used in India for diverse applications like mapping, cartography, complete plant design, mechanical design, structural design and analysis, highly sophisticated electronics design,





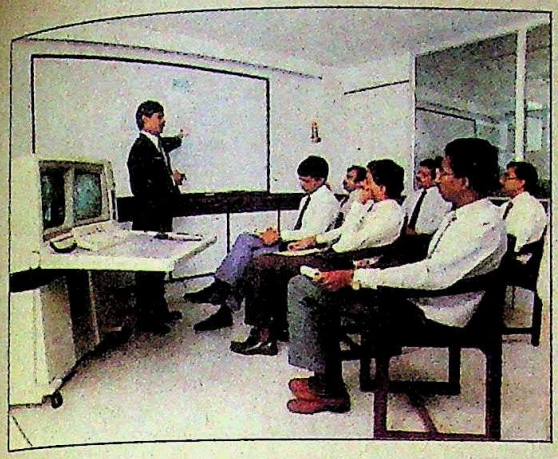
and of course in defence and space applications. By organisations like Survey of India, Department of Space, Engineers India, to name a few.

Intergraph, the world leader

A Fortune 500 company, Intergraph is the world's largest company dedicated to developing and manufacturing interactive computer graphics systems offering a wide range of CAD/CAM solutions. Not only that, it is the world's fastest growing vendor of workstations and the world's No 1 supplier of RISC based microprocessor systems. With an annual turnover touching Rs. 2000 crores.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Rolta collaborates with the world leader, Intergraph, to manufacture the world's most sophisticated CAD/CAM systems. For every conceivable application.

CAD/CAM, Rolta and India

India is one of the world's biggest markets for sophisticated CAD/CAM systems. Not surprising once you know that CAD/CAM represents the fastest growing segment of the computer industry in India, projected at Rs. 9000 crores in the 8th Five Year Plan.

And Rolta who support Intergraph systems have emerged as the leading Company in India to offer true "Total Solutions" to its customers.

Having well established credentials in this specialised hi-tech field, Rolta is ready to go one step further. Into manufacture.

Action has Started

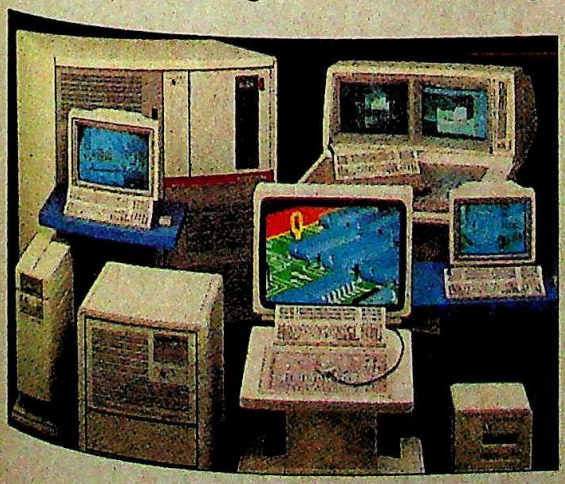
Necessary permissions and licences have been obtained. The "Transfer of Technology" agreement has been signed. "Latest" technology is being transferred to Rolta, the first time it leaves Intergraph. Intergraph is not dumping 'obsolete' technology. And as a result of the on going arrangement, Rolta will have continued access to all future developments, innovations and updates.

To ensure that Rolta systems conform to the highest Industry standards, a massive investment of Rs. 21.5 crores is being made to set up one of the most sophisticated computer manufacturing facilities in the country.

Enquiries are pouring in. Rolta's 14 locations in India are being geared up for a new scale of operations.

With the latest technology and backing from the world leader, well developed infrastructural base, a large team of highly skilled technical people and an enviable track record, Rolta, an emerging leader, is poised to serve you.

It's time to contact us.



ROLTA

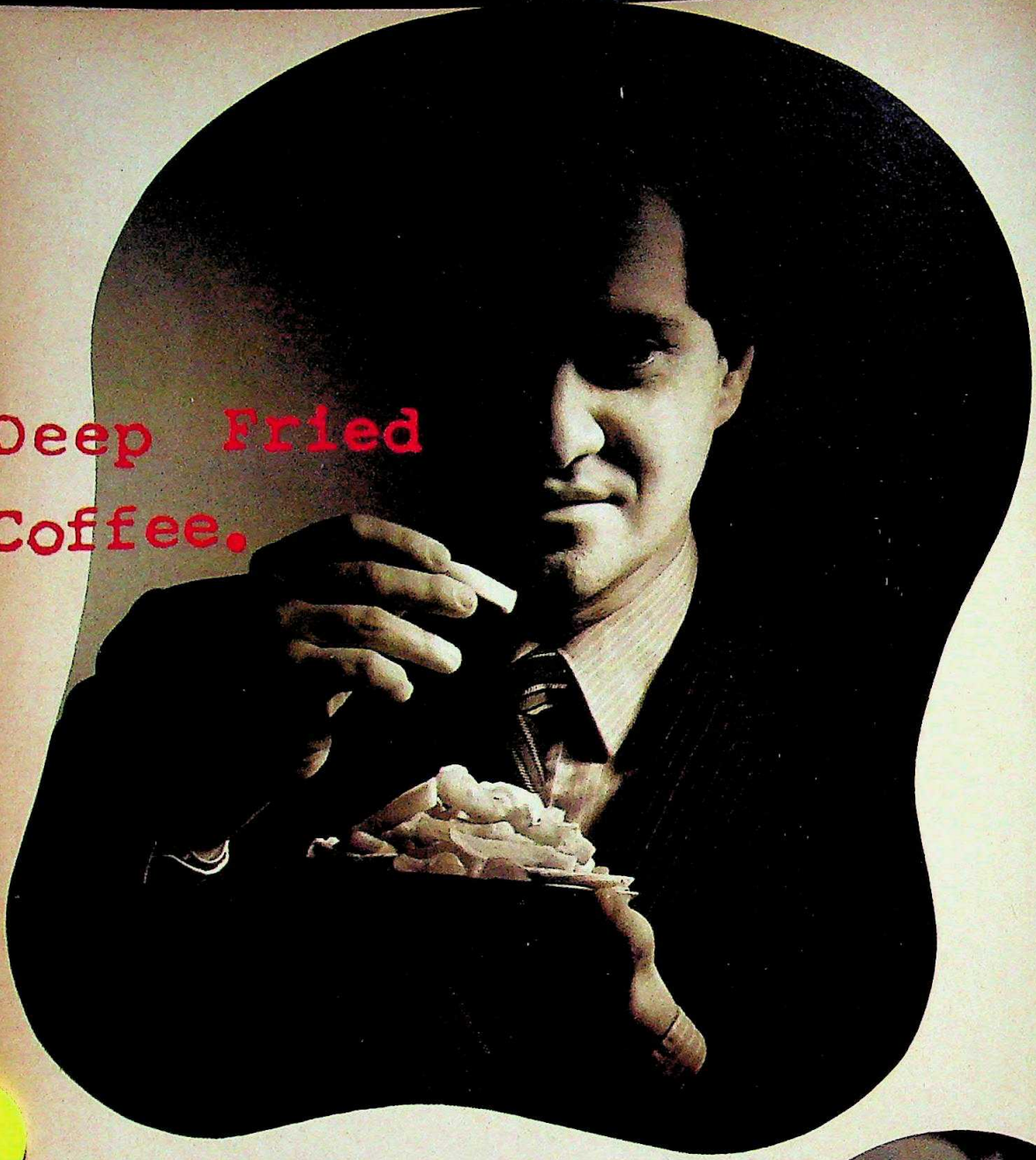
ROLTA INDIA LIMITED

Rolta Bhavan, MIDC Marol, Andheri (E), Bombay-400 093.

It pays to go with a world leader.

PRESSMAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar



COFFEE WITH SUGAR IS JUST AS BAD AS THE HEAVY OILY FOODS YOU AVOID. 4 CUPS A DAY = A HEAP OF POTATO CHIPS! SWITCH TO SWEETEX LIGHT: THE NEW LIGHT-TASTE SWEETENER. MAKE IT PART OF YOUR STAY-FIT PLAN. GIVING UP SUGAR HAS NEVER BEEN EASIER!

NEW SWEETEX LIGHT

2 ROUNDED TEASPOONS OF SUGAR (PER CUP) = 64 CALORIES 1 MEASURE OF SWEETEX LIGHT (PER CUP) = 4 CALORIES

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SHARJAH

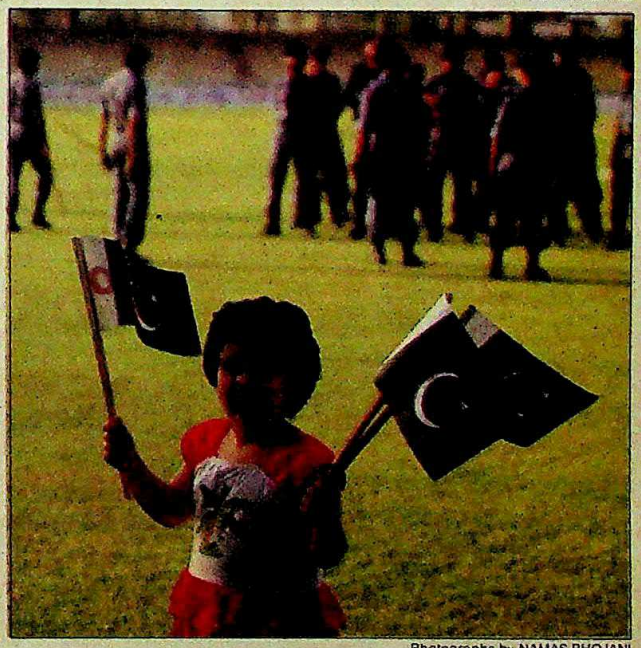
A Crass Carnival

PRADEEP MANDHANI

"ISN'T this fantastic? This is the Mecca of cricket," says actor-director Sanjay Khan, sitting in an air-conditioned box flanked by wife Zarine and Parmeshwar Godrej, watching Wasim Akram polish off the Australian tail-end with a dream hat-trick to help Pakistan retain the Australasia Cup. And as the crowds depart in aging Toyotas and swanky BMWs waving the Pakistani flag, as the enthusiasm climaxes to a deafening silence when Waqar Younus runs up to bowl to Allan Border, you realise Sanjay Khan isn't wrong.

Purists and traditionalists may still swear by Lord's, even though in its decaying grandeur it has become the watering hole of retired Englishmen. But cricket today is popular mainly because of the artificial stimulant its brash cousin, one-day cricket, provides. And in the post-Kerry Packer era none has done as much for this brand of cricket as Abdul Rahman Bukhatir, a shrewd Arab businessman who did his schooling in Pakistan, and grew up worshipping Hanif Mohammed. From being dismissed as a wild dream, Bukhatir's Cricketers' Benefit Fund Series (CBFS) is now a recognised body, and cricket boards vie with each other to get invited. Says former Pakistan captain and CBSF convenor, Asif Iqbal: "Only media and radio broadcasts made us believe that the centre of world cricket was England." Adds Sunil Gavaskar, a regular invitee to Sharjah: "We've been made to believe that all English events are the best in the world, but now there are other events which offer better facilities, better prize money, and playing conditions."

To be 'in' in Sharjah-Dubai circles, you have to be in the Members' Stand at the CBSF stadium otherwise you might as well watch the games at home on television. The price for a seat in the sanctum sanctorum—a strange mix of personalities from cinema, business and politics—is a whopping Dirhams 1,600 (Rs 8,000). But who comes to watch cricket anyway? In true subcontinental fashion, the behaviour of those in the Members' Stand is boorish. The tackier types in the audience pay 5 Dirhams for a hat which would



Photographs by NAMAS BHOJANI

A young Pakistani fan; and (above) before the closing ceremony: glitter and snide slogans

The subcontinental rivalry means that pressure on Indians is intense in Sharjah, and the atmosphere is pro-Pakistani.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MAYUR® Suitings introduces Pavonie.

Ready to wear with Italian style.

Observe the styling. No flash. Instead, stylish conservatism. Clothes fashioned to define your personality. Quietly. Note the detailing. Split yoke. Gauntlet buttons. Bar-tacking. Fine touches that make a distinct difference. Consider the options. Shirts with buttoned-down collars or wing tips. Classic stripes. Sober plains. Casual checks. Trousers with formal lines. Or baggies with pleats. And finally, take in the fabrics. Fine polyester blends and pure cottons. Add it all up, and you've got ready to wear that'll evoke a singular response from an Italian signore. Magnifico.

Pavonie
FOR MEN
Ready to Wear
SHIRTS ■ TROUSERS

Mudra:ARSW-5

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

look better on a woman at a racecourse.

Sharjah is flashy and crass and class is at a discount. Noise matters more. Garish clothes befitting wedding receptions and outlandish remarks are common. When Ravi Shastri came on to bowl, someone shouted: "Here comes the stud." When he bowled with sustained accuracy and silenced his critics, one woman asked another: "Has Ritu taught him something?" Not everyone is excited about Imran Khan though. A Pakistani woman complains: "Imran being a Pakistani and a Muslim should not go around wearing a *chaddi*," referring to the skimpy black shorts he sported when not actually playing. Abdul Qadir of Pakistan, too, delights in shocking. He came to Dubai clad in a shining, glittering silk green churidar-kurta, looking more like a *qawaali* singer.

THE Members' Stand is full of pretty women creating an aura of glamour which the TV cameras never fail to capture—one of the reasons why even the Rs 8,000 tickets sell. Simi Garewal sits with Marshneil Gavaskar, while the portly Kapoors, clad in *achkans*, walk about expecting to be treated like Raj Kapoor. Anju Mahendru is another regular while a prominent invitee this time was Asif Zardari, the polo-playing husband of Benazir Bhutto.

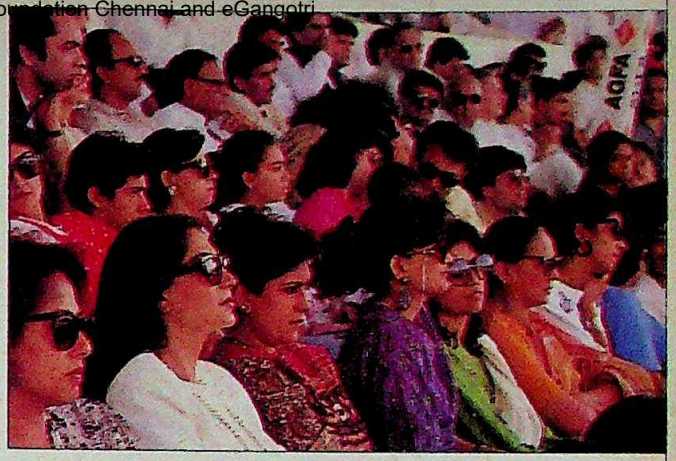
Sharjah's caste system is everywhere in evidence. There are air-conditioned boxes for the chosen ones and special boxes for donors who have their names emblazoned on brass plates. One brass plate is conspicuous: that of Dawood Ibrahim, the Bombay underworld don now based in Dubai. There are television sets in the boxes and a constant supply of tea from sexy Philippine women clad in T-shirts and jeans while buxom British girls sell Rothmans cigarettes.

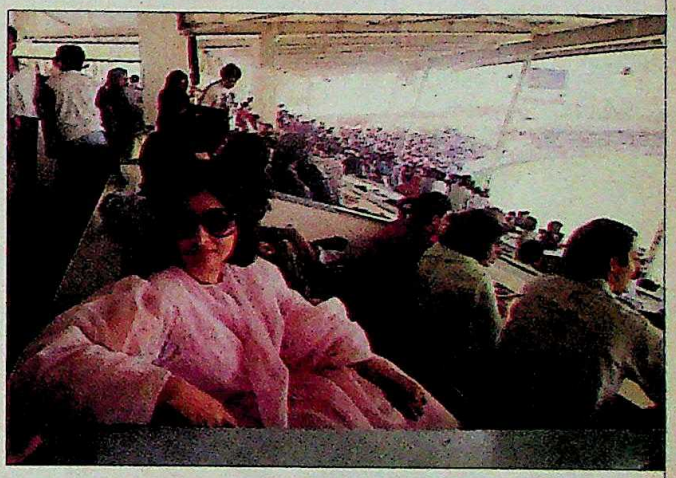
Only 10 years ago such scenes were unimaginable. Says Asif Iqbal: "When we came on the first morning in 1981, when Gavaskar XI played Miandad XI, we were worried whether anyone would come at all. To our utter surprise we saw huge queues. There is such a thing called off-shore cricket."

Today, Sharjah is an oasis of excitement and has produced memorable moments in one-day cricket. Like Javed Miandad's six off Chetan Sharma's last ball to win the first Australasia Cup four years ago; India, after being bowled out for 125, bundling off Pakistan for 87 on a treacherous track; Wasim Akram's hat-tricks; Arjuna Ranatunga's inspired belligerence last fortnight which helped Sri Lanka snatch victory from India; Waqar Younus signalling the arrival of a new cricket sensation with his sustained, accurate pace.

Such is the interest that cricket in the desert has generated that even a company like Sanyo of Japan, where interest in cricket is minimal, came up with well over $2,50,000 to be the main sponsors of the Australasia Cup (the winners got $30,000 and the runners-up $20,000). Sanyo's objective: to create brand awareness in India and Pakistan. Coca Cola lent its name to a stand, making a return to the United Arab Emrates (UAE) after the Arab world lifted the boycott against it for doing business with Israel. Shell announced a $2,500 prize for the batsman who scores the quickest 50—Simon O'Donnell was the winner with that record 50 off 18 balls against Sri Lanka. Agfa sponsored a raffle where prizes included Honda cars. And punters always bet heavily on the India-Pakistan match.

The cricketers love it too. Sharjah offers them excellent hospitality and a paid holiday with wives and the exciting prospect of shopping in nearby Dubai. The Indian team after its quick, disgraceful exit had ample time to shop and party. Some parties were an extension of parties in Bombay. At the Air India party, for instance, guests included Simi singing soulful numbers from Hindi films, much to the delight of Bukhatir and





(From top) Simi, Marshneil Gavaskar; Sharmila; and Zarine, Sanjay Khan and Parmeshwar Godrej: fun time

Though there is an aura of glamour, Sharjah is flashy and class is at a discount. Noise matters more.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MAX

AIR COOLERS

bring the freshness of Sea breeze into your home.

Now you can say goodbye to builky, rusty, noisy air coolers and switch on to the hi-tech MAX.
Silent, elegant, compact and portable MAX is manufactured from ABS plastic to make it corrosion free, maintenance free and shockproof.

Incorporating synthetic cooling pads and mounted on castors for easy mobility MAX Air Coolers are available in three models.

MAX 310-HIGH SPEED MODEL
For higher air delivery and increased cooling.

MAX 305-LOW SPEED MODEL
For comfortable cooling.

MAX 105-TABLE MODEL
The 3 in 1 Wonder that works as a Cooler, Fan, and Heater
Available in attractive colours to match any decor.

BOMBAY COOLERS PVT. LTD.
17 Patil Terrace, 1st floor,
Opp. Dadar (W. Rly) Station,
Bombay 400 028.
Phone: 4223735, 4301489

DISTRIBUTORS ALL OVER INDIA

• **T.V. & Allied Sales,** Liberty Bldg. 1st floor, 3-6-364 Bashir Baug, HYDERABAD-500 029. Phone: 234448, 233261. • **National Enterprises,** 1, Nilima Flat, Vrijraj Colony, Opp. St. Xavier's School, Navrangpura, AHMEDABAD-380 009 Phone Office: 491248 • **Selmore Electronics,** 42, MTH Compound, INDORE-452 007 (M.P.) Phone: 37769. • **Singhal Enterprises,** Texla House, 18, Govind Marg, Near Police Memorial, JAIPUR-302 004. Phone: 48091 • **Iron Products,** 50, Gautam Budh Marg, LUCKNOW-226 001. Phone: 244551, 248394 • **Chanda Enterprises,** Bombay Wali Gali, Opp. Air Force Station, SIRSA-125 055, Phone: 23978 • **Oswal Enterprises,** 14, The Mall, BATHINDA Ph. No.: 4300. • **Bedi Sales Corporation,** 19, B, Cycle Society Quarter gate, Pune-11. H.O. 1254 Deccan Gymkhana, Pune-4. Phone: 255638, 57992

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai

Air India boss Rajan Jetley. And at a small soirée at Khalid Ansari's house, Gavaskar regaled old friends with amusing cricket stories.

Yet, the worst taste belonged to Naeem Bukhari, a Pakistani upstart who converted the final, elite dinner at Sharjah's Holiday International into an evening of crass chauvinism. The lowlight of the evening was when he sang paeans for the "Islamic Republic of Pakistan" while the Pakistanis squirmed and the Indians smirked.

Shopping was the other pastime. Sharjah debutants Sachin Tendulkar and Ajay Jadeja picked up Reebok shoes while shrewder and smarter older cricketers picked up electronic goodies from known shopkeepers, giving them elaborate instructions on how to deliver the parcels in India.

There were brickbats too. When any Indian batsman went out to bat against Pakistan there were snide slogans: "*Out ho bhai out ho, jaldi jaldi out ho.*" And when the routine Indian defeat was near—this is the eighth time India lost to Pakistan in Sharjah—teenagers sang: "*Ye team kiski hai, har match me hari hai? Ye team India ki hai, har match me harti hai.*" Rues Navjot Sidhu: "We have no business going on losing like this."

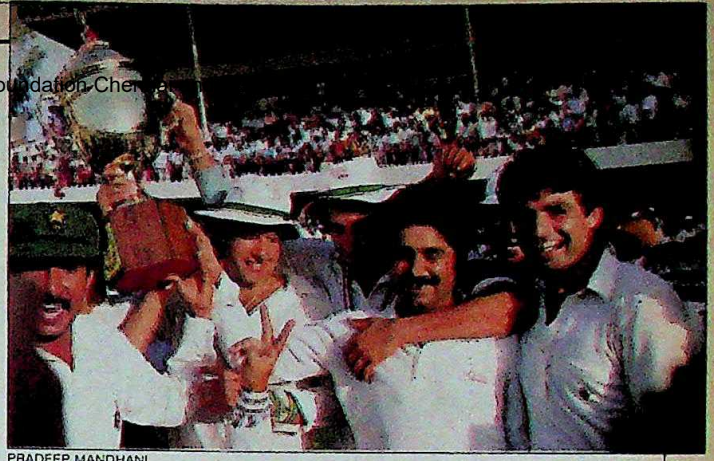
THE subcontinental rivalry means that pressure on Indians is intense in Sharjah. Says Rajesh Sajnani, an Indian businessman: "If they (Pakistanis) beat us, they go around as if they've conquered the world." Although spared of the kind of assaults Srikkanth's team faced in Pakistan last year, Indians are playing in a pronounced pro-Pakistani environment. Indian batsmen returning to the pavilion during the Pakistan match were repeatedly jeered by Pakistani children. Sachin Tendulkar consoled himself with the remark that: "This is nothing compared to what it was like in Pakistan."

Moreover, the Pakistani expatriates love rubbing it into their Indian colleagues the next day at work. Says A. Bablani who works at an American bank: "I get calls from my Pakistani colleagues expressing sympathy when they're actually gloating." Some even find plates of *samosas* and *gulab jamuns* on their desks when they arrive for work.

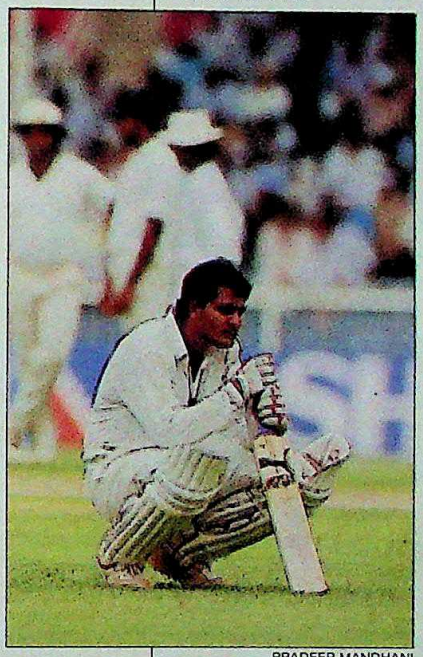
Yet cricket on neutral territory with neutral umpires has its advantages. Says Gul Ahmed, a taxi-driver: "If these two played each other in India or Pakistan, there would be so much *khun-kharaba* (bloodshed) and *shor-sharaba* (noise)." Says Bukhatir: "Don't you think it is a major achievement that a match between the two passed off without an incident in today's atmosphere?"

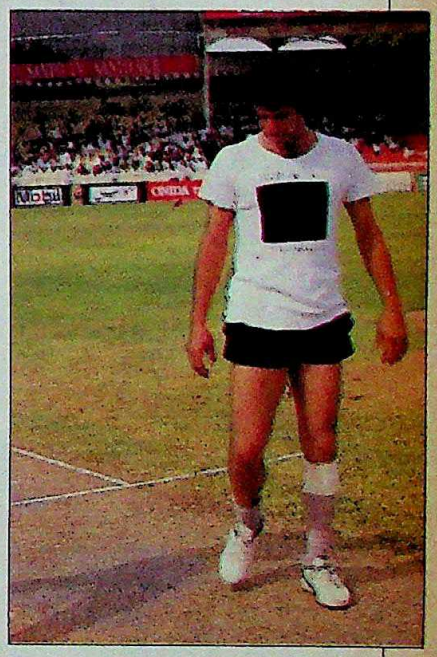
The local Derby—as Australian captain Allan Border termed it—is the India-Pakistan match. Although the UAE has a sizeable British population, Englishmen haven't taken a fancy to the game here. Says a local resident: "The Brits are into snooker, power racing, golf. They like to believe they're aristocrats, and associate cricket with Indians and Pakistanis. During the India-Pakistan match in Sharjah, they went to Dubai, to see the power racing championship."

But it was obvious that Sharjah had come finally of age. Says Asif Iqbal: "Fortunately we have the credibility now and boards accommodate us in their schedules. We have a centre where international cricket can be played on a regular basis. Neutrality has played a major role. When we started out there was a joke that this was just a gimmick to make money. Sure,



PRADEEP MANDHANI





PRADEEP MANDHANI

(From top) Pakistan with the trophy; Azharuddin; Imran Khan in 'chaddis'; and an ecstatic spectator

Such is the interest that even a Japanese company like Sanyo gave $2,50,000 to be the sponsors.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

NOTHING IS AS RELIABLE AS STEEL.

JK STAR TRAK

The only steel belted car radial.

Small wonder, that 95% vehicles worldwide ride the advantages that only the strength of steel offers.

Advantages that are finally yours with the introduction of Star Trak. From JK Tyre .

- ▲ Upto 70% extra mileage.
- ▲ Fuel saving upto 7%!
- ▲ Unmatched road grip.
- ▲ Extraordinary driving comfort

JK Radials are selected as original fitment by leading car and LCV manufacturers.

JK TYRE

THE TRACKS OF THE FUTURE

Panini Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Collection.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

but it is also a way of giving money to cricketers.

There is active cricket in Sharjah and Dubai. There are 176 clubs in Dubai, Sharjah, Ajman and Abu Dhabi. UAE has even applied for associate membership of the International Cricket Council. Waqar Younus is a Sharjah boy. Former Bombay 'A' division players, Riaz Poonawala and Ravi Tuli, play for Emirates India XI in the Middle East Bank Cup. Says Bedi: "Cricket here is very active." Vikram Kaul, former Air India manager in the region and now the chief executive of Nasser Air Travel and Shipping Agency, has led an Emirates team called Air India XI to England and East Africa. Late last fortnight, Bishen Singh Bedi and Bobby Simpson broke the ground for a cricket school in Dubai. Kaul and others like him would like to see a UAE team in the World Cup.

Considering the determination with which Bukhatir and his fellow-aficionados have accomplished unbelievable things, that can no longer be dismissed as a mirage. In Sharjah, it would be a fitting tribute to one man's magnificent obsession.

—SALIL TRIPATHI in Sharjah and Dubai

Dubai Golf Club: desert pleasure

ABDUL RAHMAN BUKHATIR

"The cricket scene is here"

ABDUL Rahman Bukhatir has enough business interests—in real estate, trading, hotels and banks—not to bother about flannelled fools. Bukhatir is also fascinated by the Indian subcontinent. He grew up studying in Pakistan and loves Hindi films. In less than a decade, he has transformed his desert fantasy into a million-dollar business—attracting top cricket teams for a week to Sharjah twice a year, and offering the kind of prize money that was unthinkable in the pre-Packer era. In between matches, Bukhatir spoke to Senior Correspondent SALIL TRIPATHI. *Excerpts:*

Q. ***What is the genesis of*** CBFS?

A. There were a large number of expatriates in the UAE. The locals were in a minority and they preferred football. But the expatriates were very active in cricket. When we invited the PIA team, there was a large turnout of people to see Majid Khan and Mudassar Nazar. We spoke then to Sunil Gavaskar and Asif Iqbal and word went out about a benefit match between Miandad XI and Gavaskar XI for Madhav Mantri, Asif Iqbal and Hanif Mohammad. We were surprised at the turnout. Then we started thinking seriously.

Q. ***What made teams outside the subcontinent accept Sharjah?***

A. We did not want to have monotonous matches. People wanted to see Hadlee, Botham, Clive Lloyd, Viv Richards. But distances and their own programmes are such that they are not available all the time. Also, India and Pakistan are close enough so they find it convenient to come here. Australia can only come at the end of the season or on their way to England. We have to be careful in planning.

Q. ***Are you disappointed with India's performance?***

A. Yes. But it was purely bad luck. Some wickets fell totally by chance—like Srikkanth's dismissal. The main difference was Waqar Younus.

Q. ***What's wrong with the Indian team when it faces Pakistan here?***

A. We are neutral ground, we are friends with both. I think the problem was with India's captaincy. Pakistan had a lot of captains before they spotted Imran Khan and settled with him. In India, Gavaskar was doing all right, but suddenly they changed to Kapil, and then Kapil by someone else. I would like them to play the kind of cricket they're capable of. I see great potential in this guy Tendulkar. You need a couple of good bowlers and you'll have a good team again.

Q. ***How did you handle the issue of the players' security this time?***

A. This event would have been impossible had it not been for the Government of Sharjah giving all assurances on security to the participating countries.

Q. ***Why is security so tight?***

A. We just did not want any untoward incident here. The system here works. You keep hearing about riots here and there (after a match), but that doesn't happen here. Really, to have the Indian team this time and to have not a single (ugly) incident is an achievement.

Q. ***Do you visualise a Test match between India and Pakistan here?***

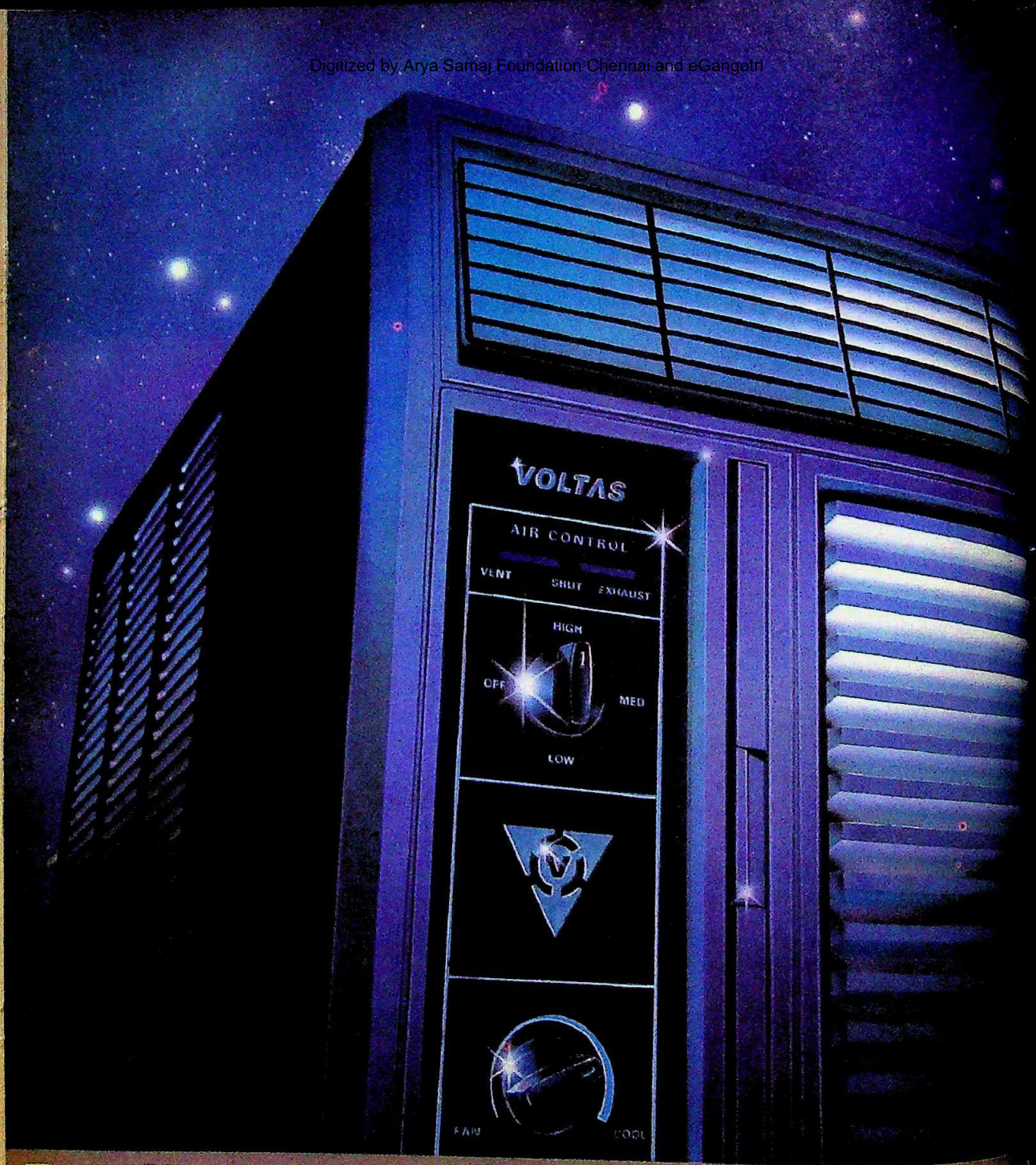
A. The excitement of one-day cricket is totally different. You may get the crowds, but you won't have the climax of one-day cricket.

Q. ***Do you think the centre of world cricket is no longer in England?***

A. Cricket is now more international than before. Earlier, England was the centre because the English county season was organised. But once you had India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka emerging and playing good cricket, the scene moved from England. It shifted to Australia initially, but because of the concentration of three to four teams here and the longer season here unlike England where you don't play in winter, it is now shifting here.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



T H E N E W V O

VOLTAS LIMITED
Appliances Business Group 19, J.N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038. Phone: 2618131

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Until now you could not get an air conditioner as advanced as this

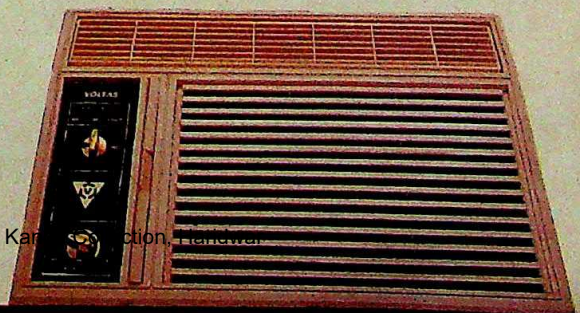
For some, 'good' is not good enough. At Voltas, we felt it was high time someone designed an air conditioner for them. Using the latest innovations in technology to battle compromise. We've done a thorough job of it. Starting with a powerhouse compressor designed to convert every unit of electricity into maximum cooling. Aided by 'triple-ripple' cooling fins to maximise heat exchange. And the new extra-drive fan featuring 3-speed control. Every detail finely tuned, right down to the unique 'slip-out' fabric filter. The result is stunning. Cooling that is quick, constant, noiseless... and evenly distributed. The New Crystal Air Conditioner from Voltas. Now you don't have to make the best of what you have. Simply have the best.

VOLTAS

AIR CONDITIONER

A S C R Y S T A L

The fine art of climate control



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ONE WAY OF CELEBRATING

If the occasion calls for a special something, gift a Louis Philippe.
Because, formal or casual, Louis Philippe adds a certain dimension to any man's personality.
And is crafted with a meticulous attention to detail.
From the finest fabric, exclusively designed for Louis Philippe.
So, when you want to make a special occasion of it, get a Louis Philippe.

The signature of success

Louis Philippe
SIGNED DESIGNERWEAR

Premium shirts, trousers and accessories

Louis Philippe Exclusive Showrooms at: **AHMEDABAD:** G7 Amar Chamber, Near Swastik Char Rasta, Navrangpura. **BANGALORE:** Davidoss Building, Commercial Street. **BOMBAY:** India House No. 2, Kemps Corner. **CALCUTTA:** Opp. Dimple Court, Upper Wood Street. **COCHIN:** North End, M.G. Road. **NEW DELHI:** F-43, South Extension 1. **MADRAS:** Rani Seethai Hall, Opp. Anna Flyover. Opening shortly in other major towns.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BASTAR

Dangerous Damage

Tribals and politics threaten to destroy forests

ONCE the very mention of Bastar—the tribal district on the southernmost tip of Madhya Pradesh—conjured up images of exotic aboriginals and virgin tropical forests. But today the vision is rapidly beginning to fade out. Over the past two months, the tribal inhabitants have embarked on a wanton destruction of forests that may wipe out the district's rich forest wealth. In three tehsils alone—Narayanpur, Kondagaon and Jagdalpur—they are estimated to have felled more than a lakh of trees, including giant saal and teak. Their total value: Rs 20 crore.

At the root of the problem are ruling party politicians. On the eve of the assembly elections, some BJP leaders of the area had assured the tribals that the land cleared of forests would be allotted to them. The news spread like wildfire among the tribal villages and tribals started felling trees to make way for farmlands.

Says Mahadev of Sakari village in Kondagaon tehsil: "Seventeen of us have cleared about 50 acres for farming." In the last week of April, tribals in the Konta area cleared 500 acres of forest. The tribals are prompted by economic necessity. Says Bisru Ram: "Our families have grown. The existing farmlands are not enough."

BJP leaders, predictably, deny their involvement in the illegal felling. Says Tribal Welfare Minister Baliram Kashyap, whose constituency has suffered the worst damage: "It is actually the Congress(I) which is instigating the tribals." But in the same breath, Kashyap admits he had launched a movement for forest land to tribals. Laments he: "When contractors and outsiders robbed Bastar of its forest wealth, nobody complained. But when an Adivasi cuts down a tree, everybody starts howling in protest."

When the illegal felling of trees first came to light in March, it was thought to be an isolated case. But as news percolated from other areas, the magnitude of the problem became apparent. Says local Youth Congress(I) leader Satish Tiwari, who has made a video film on the large-scale destruction of trees: "I have never seen anything like it."

The Forest Department, on its part, has registered cases of illegal felling against 200 tribals. According to official estimates, not more than 21,000 trees have been felled. The officers, however, add cautiously: "Full reports are yet to reach us." The worst damage has been reported from the Kanger valley, the Machkot range and national parks and reserved forest areas like Matla.

Sadly, instead of taking action to stop the destruction, the state Government has appointed an official committee to study the problem. Says Forest Minister Nankiram Kanwar: "The charges are motivated by cheap politics."

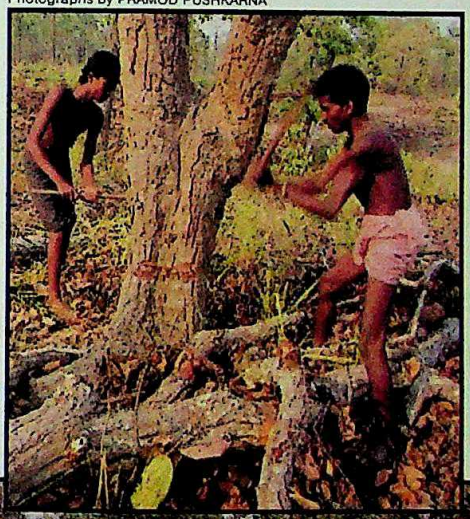
However, the Union Environment Ministry, when approached by former chief minister Motilal Vora and Congress(I) MP Suresh Pachouri, promised to send a high-level team of officers for an on-the-spot assessment of the damage. Emphasises Pachouri: "It is not a political issue. We are concerned about the long-term damage to the environment."

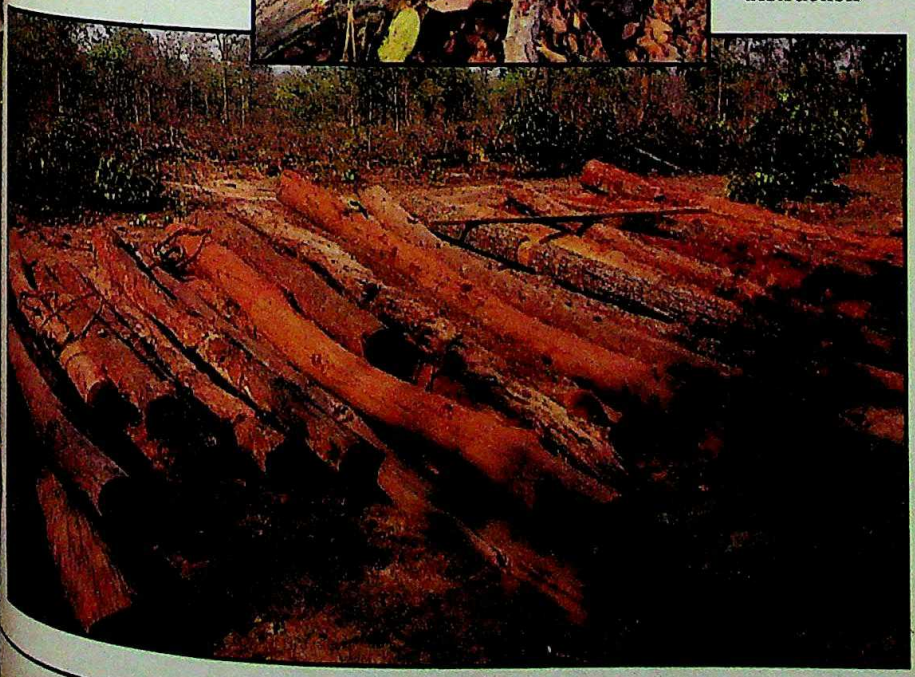
Vora, who visited the area along with Pachouri last fortnight, has taken a strong stand. Apart from submitting a memorandum to the Governor demanding a judicial inquiry, he has appealed to environmentalists Baba Amte and Sunderlal Bahuguna to stop the destruction. Said Vora: "They are now acting against the poor tribals. The real culprits are those who instigated them."

On the other hand, Kashyap blames the Congress(I) which was in power at that time for not taking action. Even as the charges fly thick and fast, tribals continue on the suicidal path of felling trees. And if the Government does not act immediately, the famed forests of Bastar will become yet another ecological graveyard.

—N.K. SINGH in Bastar

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA





Tribals cut down trees; and (below) logs of wood: wanton destruction

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by BHARAT PATHAK

GIR SANCTUARY

Killing Fields

Captured lions being released into the sanctuary; a pride of lions: problem of plenty

TALK about Gujarat's Gir sanctuary—the last abode of the Indian lion—and nature lovers go into raptures. Their enthusiasm, however, is not shared by the villagers living on the sanctuary's periphery. In the past 22 months, close to 90 of them have been attacked by lions and at least 15 have died.

Forest officials admit that the number of attacks has increased substantially. Says R. Saxena, divisional forest officer, Gir West range: "The increase is alarming. Such a phenomenon was last recorded 90 years ago when lions went on a rampage." Nevertheless, officials maintain that lions won't attack humans without provocation.

It's a view the villagers contest hotly. They cite a few recent cases.

▶ Amarben, 38, a resident of Dev village on the sanctuary's periphery, set out at 8 one night to offer prayers at a nearby temple. On the way, four lionesses picked her up, almost in the heart of the hamlet, and retired to a corner to feast on the body. Says Amarben's husband, Jaysinh Parmar: "All that was left of my wife's body was her face."

▶ In Rajpara village, seven-year-old Nathu and his father, Dhokabhai, went to sleep one night in the courtyard of their house. Some time later, when Dhokabhai woke up, he saw a lion holding Nathu in his jaws. When the family began shouting, the lion dropped the boy and fled. Nathu survived.

Terrified by these attacks, few villagers venture out at night. In some villages, it's almost as if a curfew has been declared. The villagers' fear is hardly unfounded. Lions have been straying as much as 40 to 60 km from the periphery of the sanctuary. Forest officials often trap lions in cages and bring them back to the sanctuary. Says S.K. Nanda, collector of Junagadh district: "Until now, human beings used to come here to see lions. What's happening now is the reverse. In fact, we fear the lions are turning maneaters."

Villagers believe there are two reasons for this. One, the increase in the number of lions and the simultaneous decrease in the number of herbivores. Two, the Forest Department's decision to shift the *maldharis* (shepherds) who have been living in the sanctuary for ages with their cattle. Villagers argue that the *maldharis'* cattle were ideal prey for lions and discouraged them from straying out.

Forest officials deny this. The main reason for lions venturing out, they say, is the destruction of the corridors (patches of forests) between open lands inside the sanctuary which provided cover for the lions. Another reason is the shrinking of the revenue lands just outside the sanctuary.

Ravi Chellam, a senior research fellow of the Dehra Dun-based Wildlife Institute of India who has been studying the Gir lion, places the blame on the increasing lion population. The 1985 census put the number of lions in Gir at 239—up from 205 in 1980. Today, the number might be around 270, far too high for the 1,412-sq km sanctuary.

What's ironical is that it is a problem created by the very success of conservation.

—UDAY MAHURKAR in Gir

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INTRODUCING **NULON INDUSTRIAL** FOR THOSE WHO ARE CONSTANTLY SEARCHING FOR **SOLUTIONS**

Over the years lubricants have developed to a very high standard. But their efficiency is retarded by the irregular texture of the surfaces they lubricate. Resulting in loss of power, higher fuel consumption and more wear and tear. Consequently higher maintenance costs.

Nulon products help reduce these costs. They contain PTFE (Polytetrafluoroethylene) which has the lowest co-efficient of friction known to science. During operation the sub micron particles of PTFE form a protective film on the moving parts. The inevitable wear and tear slows down as Nulon takes over. Start treating your machines with Nulon. It doesn't take a lot of effort. Just a little Nulon.

The Nulon Package:

E–25 Supreme Industrial Long Term Engine Treatment
(For Generators, Earth Moving Equipment, Reciprocating Compressors, Stationary Engines and Marine Engines).

G–70 Manual Gearbox and Differential Treatment
(For Industrial Gearboxes of all types, Worm Reduction Gears, Synchromesh Rings and Limited Slip Differentials).

L–80 Multipurpose Grease with PTFE
(For Conveyors, Farm Machinery, Production Equipment, Ball and Roller Bearings, Wheel Bearings and Ball Joints).

C–95 Cool 'N' Clean Coolant
(For all Industrial Water Cooled Engines).

To get the benefits of lower downtime and lower maintenance costs write for a copy of our brochure to:

NULON INDIA LIMITED
Nulon House, Ishwar Nagar, 10th Milestone,
Delhi-Mathura Road, New Delhi-110065.
Tel: 6841430 (3 Lines) Telex: 031-75230

Keep your machines going longer for less.

NULON

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CREMATION

Burning Issue

Consumption of fuel sparks debate

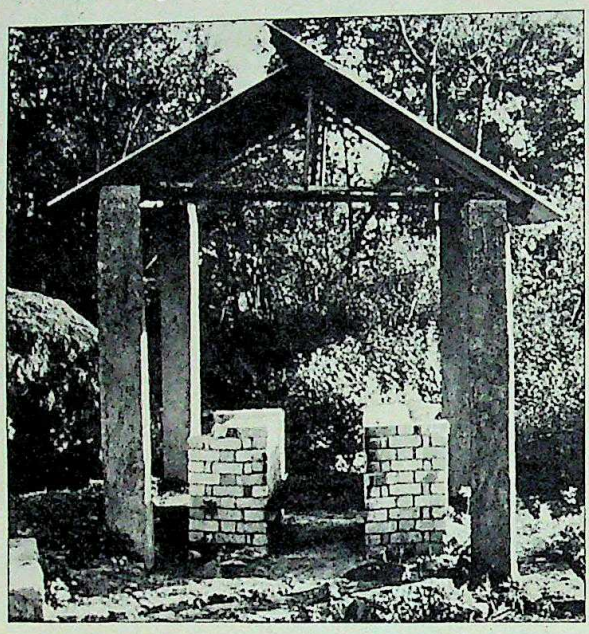
FOR the Hindu family of a dead person the funeral pyre is a once-in-a-life time expenditure and a prerequisite for attaining *moksha*. But for the world at large it means that 300 kg to 600 kg of wood is burnt. Why burn bodies on pyres stacked with layers of wood logs is the question that is now being debated by conservationists in the country.

This concern at the waste of wood is understandable. At the annual death rate of 11 per thousand in India it is estimated that each year three lakh tonnes of dry wood worth over Rs 300 crore is sacrificed at the altar of *moksha*. This is apart from the massive amount of fuelwood used for cooking. "There is growing concern about firewood consumption at the pyre," says a senior official of the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

However, over the years conservationists have not been sitting back and watching the trees being chopped and the wood being burnt amid the mantra-chanting. One ideal alternative is already in use in Gujarat.

This crematorium with a simple design can be easily made and consumes just half the normal quantity of wood. In the traditional pyre the wood is stacked and the body placed on it. In the improved version the process is the same but the body is placed in a cradle-like structure. Each unit consists of two low-fired clay brick walls three feet apart and six feet long with vents along the sides. A wire mesh on which the wood and the body is to be placed is fixed a foot above the ground between the two walls. Because of the circulation of the air all around the pyre the wood burns well and just half the quantity of wood normally used, will turn the body to ashes. The cost of building each unit: Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000. "It works more or less like a big *angeethi*. A saved tree means much more than planting a tree," says A.G. Pinto, chief conservator of forests in Vadodara.

The crematorium is now also made in cast iron, without any additional cost. "Cast iron crematorium saves a lot in terms of maintenance for the poor villagers," says a forest official. Thanks to a World Bank-aided Social Forestry Project over 1,166 such units have come up in various parts of Gujarat. And more units are being put up in adjoining wood-starved Rajasthan too.



The improved crematorium: ideal design

By helping save 50 per cent of the fuelwood, the improved crematorium is apt technology for rural areas.

"Although initial response was one of suspicion the technology has far-reaching implications," says S.S. Sayali, conservator of forests at Udaipur. Fuelwood is so scarce in some parts of Rajasthan that poverty stricken people are left with no choice but to use cow dung and other agro-wastes for cremation. By helping save 50 per cent of fuelwood, the improved crematorium is apt technology for the rural areas as it does not do away with the pyre.

Predictably, it is the religious and social taboos that come in the way of the fuel-efficient crematorium becoming popular. "We do not want to be miserly when it comes to the last rites of our dear ones," said a villager in Udaipur. Mourners are not exactly queuing up in front of the 85-units now installed in Rajasthan. A survey in Gujarat has revealed that an average of 13 bodies are confined to flames every year in each unit there, an indication that the stigma attached to the new way of burning is gradually going up in smoke.

Lack of education is often responsible for the slow response. In north Gujarat, where education is better the brick and cast iron crematoria have worked well. In contrast, despite firewood scarcity, west Gujarat which has more illiterate and orthodox people who are rigid when it comes to religious rituals have yet to put the crematoria to use.

"Unless the villagers feel the need for the technology, any intervention is bound to fail," explains C.P.Krishnan, who directs the Energy Environment Group's technology dissemination programme in Una district of Himachal Pradesh. Krishnan, who is in charge of erecting 50 new crematoria in Himachal Pradesh, says: "It is indeed one technology which must reach all corners of the country."

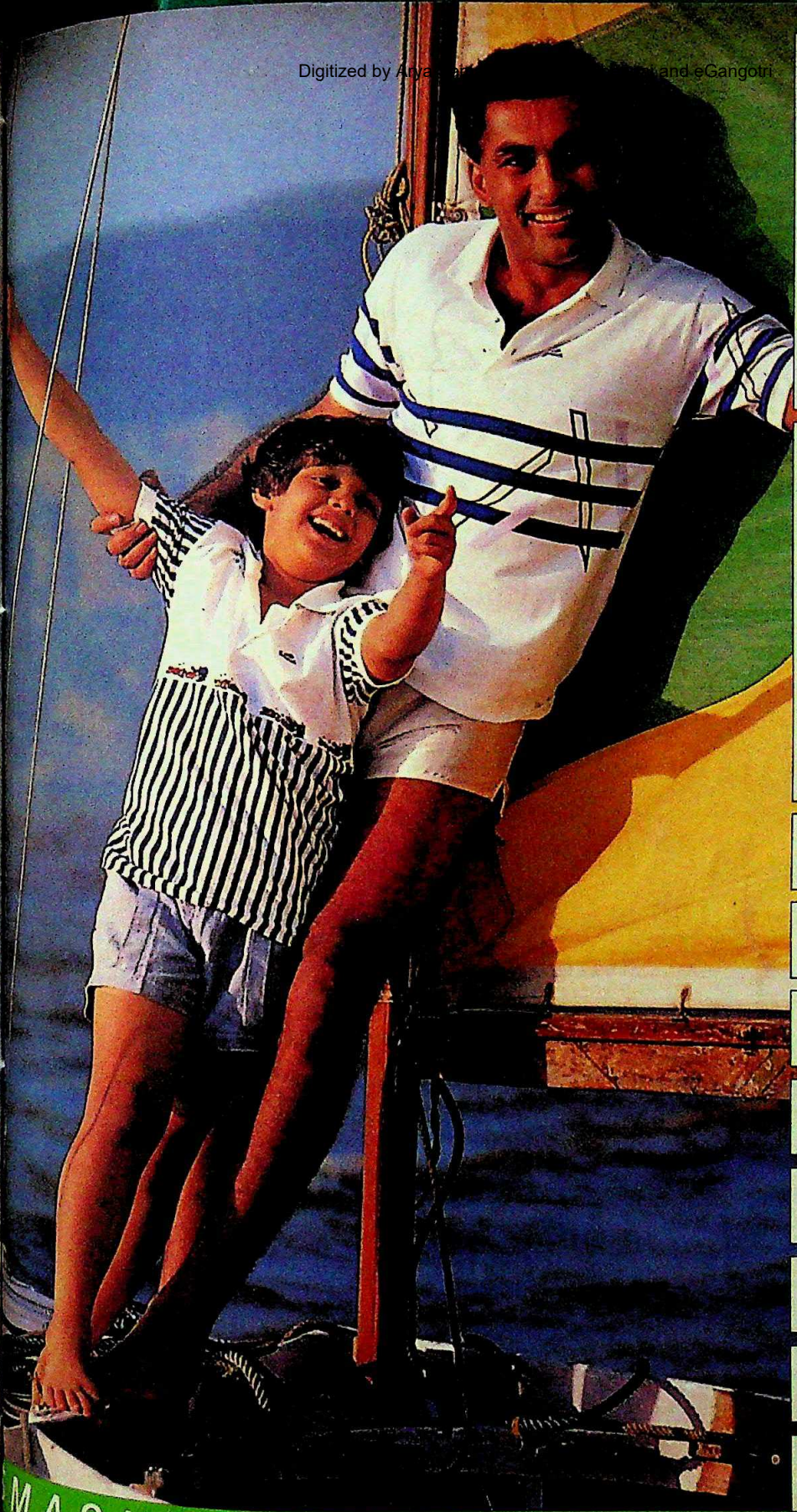
This is exactly what the World Bank is trying to do. "The extension of the programme to Uttar Pradesh and Himachal Pradesh is in the pipeline," says P.G. Thakurta of the World Bank. But officials argue that it is the cities that need the new cremation technology. For instance, Delhi alone burns up Rs 10 crore worth of firewood at the cremation grounds every year. The Advisory Board on Energy has calculated that with just Rs 70 lakh all the existing old crematoria can be changed to the new design, showing the glaring financial difference between the two alternatives.

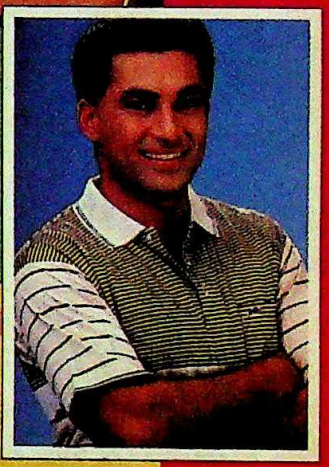
It is actually the issue of heaven and hell that prevents the burial of the concept of the fully wood-stacked pyre. Many villagers feel that burning the corpse a foot above the ground, like in the modern pyre, is a sure ticket to hell. With such issues at stake, only heaven-willing will the new design gain popularity.

—SUDHIRENDRA SHARMA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





YOU WON'T FIND THE BULL IN A COMMON HERD

SMASH INTERNATIONAL

International quality T-shirts and leisurewear for adults and kids in smashing new designs.
Just here are Style Nos. HSI 721 & AM 460 for adults and AM 469 & AM 477 for kids.
MARKETING P. LIMITED, Maker Chambers-3, 11th Floor, Nariman Point, Bombay-400 021, India
22345; Telex: 112117 APGO IN, 116904 APGO IN; Fax: 2871127

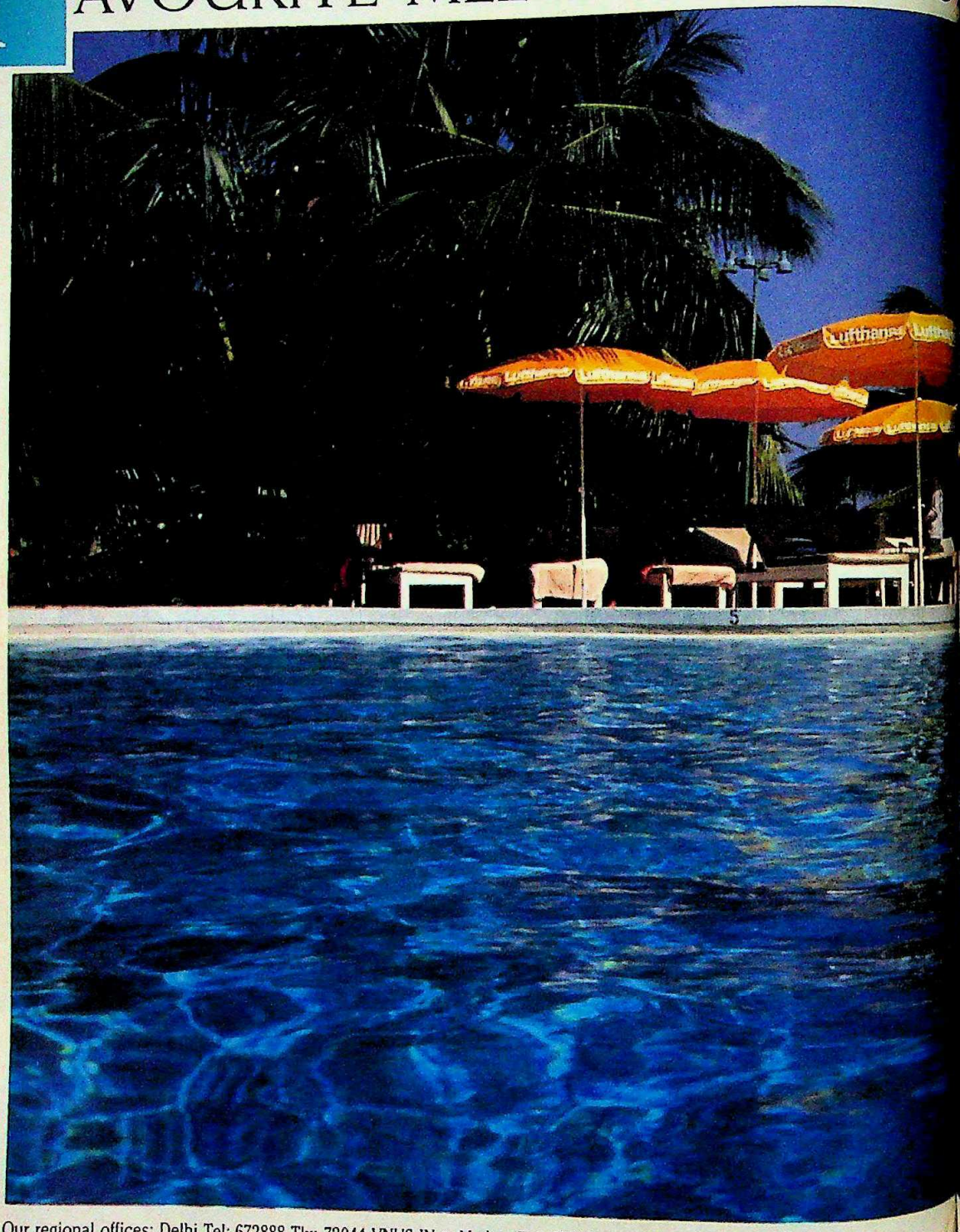
Smash International

Rediffusion AM/7361

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

FAVOURITE MEETING PLACE OHE



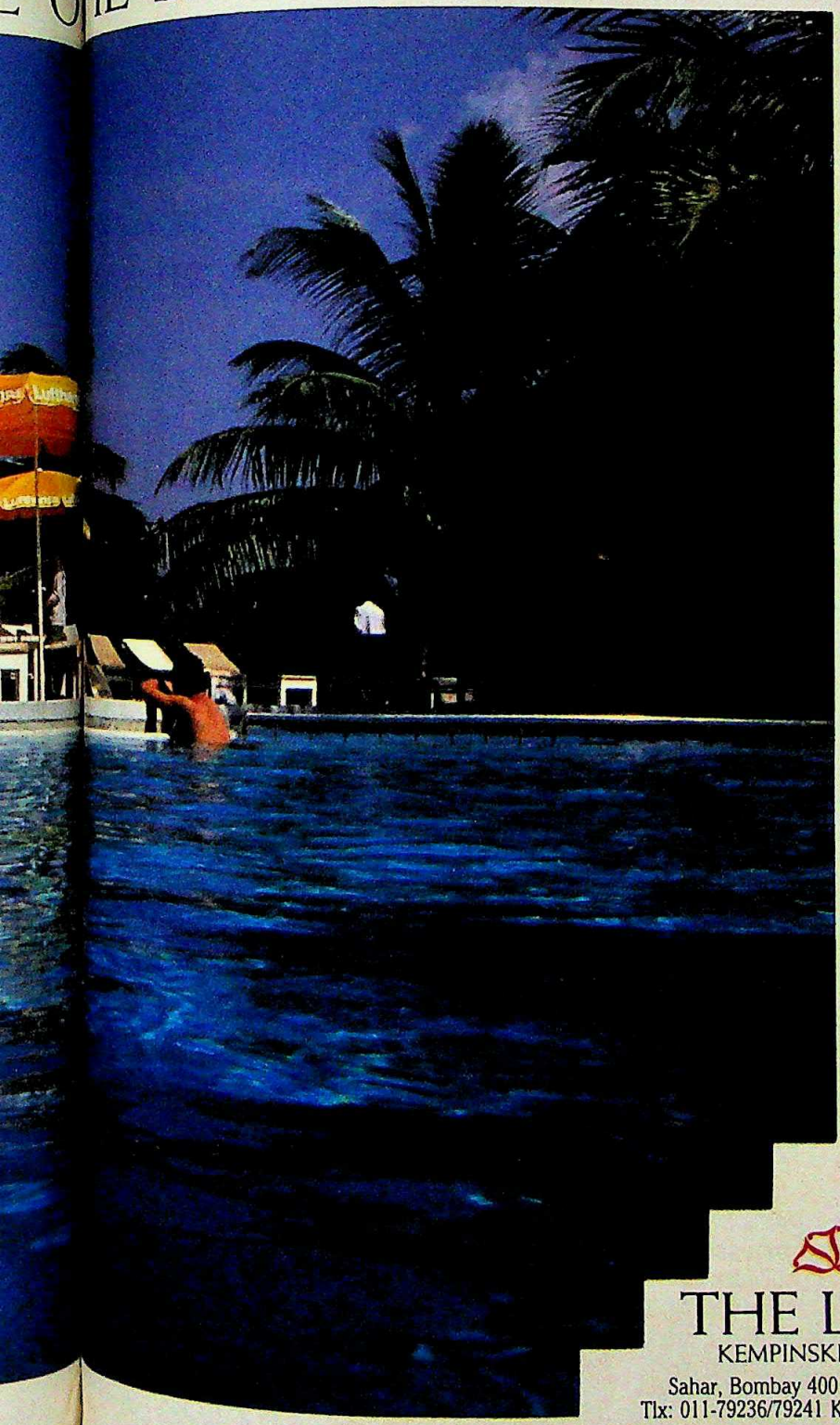
Our regional offices: Delhi Tel: 672888 Tlx: 72044 VNUS IN • Madras Tel: 8255215/8255092 Tlx: 0417529 ISA IN
Pune Tel: 332074 Tlx: 0145679 KOLL IN • Ahmedabad Tel: 463719 Tlx: 01216370 KLNA IN

Kempinski hotels are **Lufthansa** hotels.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE BARONS OF INDUSTRY.



Moments at the Emerald Isle, or the Orchid Lounge.

Often at the Exclusive Suites and Conference Rooms.

You'll find the world's top decision-makers and achievers savouring the finesse of The Leela's hospitality, while they go about their business comfortably and flawlessly.

The Leela's blend of grand European living and exquisite Indian elegance offers the ultimate in service and comfort. And soon, with the completion of the new Tower, The Leela will offer a total of 450 deluxe rooms and 12 exclusive meeting rooms with the latest hi-tech conference facilities. And The Leela Beach Goa, a resort to equal the world's best.

The Leela is a unique, 5-star Deluxe experience.

Can you afford to stay anywhere else?

THE LEELA
KEMPINSKI BOMBAY

Sahar, Bombay 400 059. Tel: 636 3636
Tlx: 011-79236/79241 KEMP-IN Fax: 636 0606

THE EDGE-B/904/LK/32

Alone in its class

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Take the right decision -inside

When it's a matter of something which is next to your skin, you ought to be careful. A wrong decision may cause problems. So the safe solution is to decide on RUPA Frontline Brief. The latest technique used for its manufacturing makes it most suitable for Indian climate. Its hygienic qualities make RUPA Frontline totally safe for your skin.

RUPA's super silky finish in cotton, the just right elastic from imported rubber, the made to please shades, all go to make the right decision for you. Inside.

RUPA
Frontline
BRIEFS

Now! new RUPA Frontline Vests in matching colours.

Briefly. The Front Open Advantage

A quality product from **BINOD HOSIERY**, Calcutta

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TAMIL NADU

Professional Passion

Engineers, MBAs, chartered accountants enter films

TIMES are a changing in the film capital of the south. The new sensations of Tamil showbiz are not school dropouts—illiterate but charismatic runaways with stars in their eyes. They are chartered accountants, MBAs, engineers and doctors, who have chucked up the daily grind of a slow and steady climb to the next raise for a go at the razzle-dazzle of Kodambakkam—the Mecca of Madras film aspirants.

The list is impressive. Maniratnam, an MBA from Bajaj, gave up a successful career as management consultant to take up film direction. His brother G. Venkateswaran, a chartered accountant for nine years, began distributing films and, later, producing them. Dr Rajashekhar gave up his medical practice to produce and direct a film in which he was the hero—a box-office hit. Tamil cinema's suavest villain, Raja Krishnamoorthy or Khitty, an MBA, left his general manager's job at Enfield for a bit role in *Nayagan*. R. Mohan (or crazy Mohan as his theatre fans know him), a mechanical engineer, bid goodbye to a 10-year stint at TVS Sundaram Clayton to make comedy plays, and then to write film scripts.

What makes them take the plunge? "The money, obviously," says G. Venkateswaran (GV to the film world). "The film line is the one business where you can earn fast and make a name for yourself." And if his career is any indication, he's bang on target. GV's distribution firm, Sujatha Films, is the first film company to turn public in 75 years of cinema. Since 1979, GV has distributed over 500 films and produced 40 of the Tamil industry's biggest hits, including *Nayagan*—which won Kamalahasan the national award.

At 42, GV has no regrets that his knowledge gained by years of formal education is not being put to use. Says he: "Actually, my training in chartered accountancy has helped me plan my business. I wouldn't say my education was wasted." GV and Maniratnam's father was a film distributor who did not want his sons to enter the film world. But the lure of celluloid was obviously far greater. Maniratnam, 37, got interested in writing and directing plays while doing his MBA at Bajaj. For a few years, he practised as a management consultant even as he continued to write stories. In 1985 he left his job and made his first film, *Mouna Raagam*, that captured the hearts of Tamil romantics. Maniratnam had arrived.

For Mohan, the lure was not so much money as a yearning for a creative profession. Says he: "After 10 years in Clayton as an engineer, I was bored and fed up with routine. I would use my evenings to produce and direct comedy plays that were popular. After a while I decided to give up my job and concentrate on theatre. It has paid off." From theatre to the film world was a small step. With his dialogues for Kamalahasan's home production, *Apoorva Sagotharangal*, Mohan was in business. The movie was a whopping success—Kamal's dual performance as a man and a midget captivated audiences. Mohan's next project is also a Kamalahasan starrer, *Michael Madana-Kamaraj*, in which the actor performs four roles. Mohan may not be raking in the lucre, but says he: "I have earned more in a few years in films than I did in 10 years at TVS."

G. VENKATESWARAN

MANIRATNAM

R. MOHAN

R. KRISHNAMOORTHY

The glamour of the arc lights and the lure of quick money have drawn the professionally qualified into cinema.

Khitty is another example. Fresh out of Bajaj, he was rapidly climbing the professional ladder. In his early 30s, he was already a general manager at Enfield when he decided to make the transition from management to the movie industry. Says he: "Primarily, it was the urge to be independent and do something different. I was tired of the responsibility. As an actor, my responsibility lasts as long as the take. After that I am a free man."

But does being educated help this new generation of film personalities? Says Mohan: "My education is totally wasted. I spent years to get my engineering degree and then my M.Tech. Now, I am in a line where I have to survive on my wits, not my education." GV disagrees: "Education is never wasted. Formal education is a good foundation for every career. For me it has been directly productive." For Khitty, his education is a "support to fall back on". Says he: "Education in itself is nothing. It's perspective that counts. I don't think my qualifications have helped me. Look at Kamalahasan, he has no formal education but he is a complete person."

In any case it's not awareness but the glamour of the arc lights and some quick money that the educated movie hopefuls are seeking.

—KAVITHA SHETTY

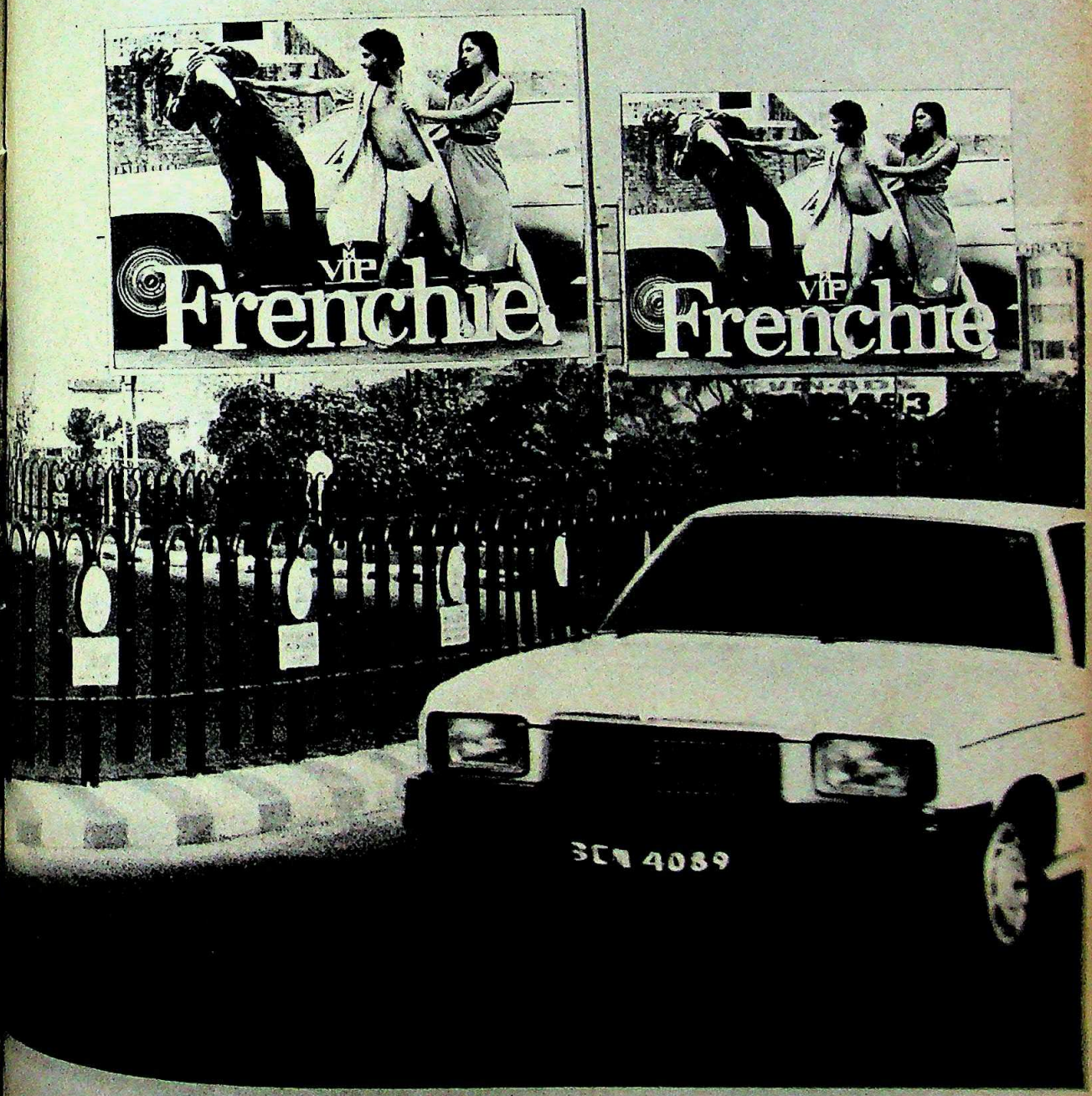
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The advertisement that created history repeats itself.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



By a staff photographer.

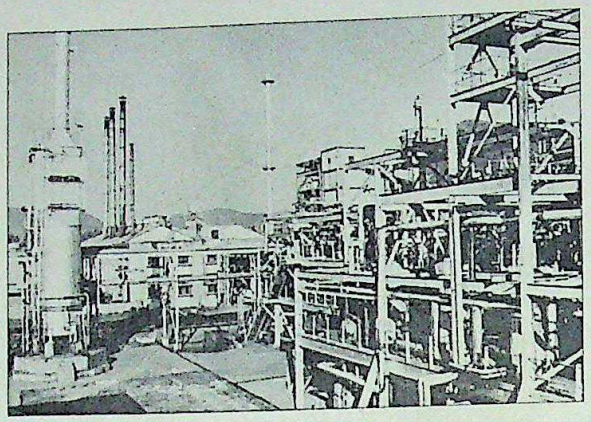
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Out of the Ivory Tower

SCIENTIFIC research institutions and industry are fond of throwing stones at each other. While industry accuses scientists of living in ivory towers and researching subjects that are of no practical use, scientists claim that industry eagerly rushes to import technical knowhow, ignoring indigenous research.

Now here's proof that the twain can meet. A catalyst developed by the National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune has helped Hindustan Polymers Limited (HPL) of the UB Group become the first plant in the world to convert alcohol directly to ethyl benzene, a raw material for styrene which is used in the plastic industry.



HPL's Visakhapatnam plant: global first

In the older two-step process, ethylene obtained from alcohol is dried and then combined with benzene to yield ethyl benzene using corrosive and toxic catalysts. The new "Albene process" is both cheaper and quicker. Besides, emphasises Dr R.A. Mashelkar, director, NCL: "No corrosive or toxic catalysts are involved and there are no environmental problems like acid sludge disposal as in the older technology." He also claims that the new technology cuts raw material consumption by 10 per cent, expenditure on energy by 8 per cent, and overall costs per tonne of ethyl benzene by Rs 800.

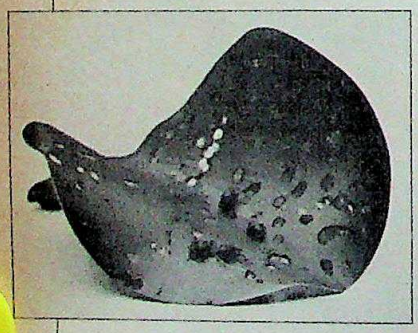
As impressive as the novel technology is the faith that HPL reposed in it. To use the albene technology, the company invested Rs 1 crore to make changes and additions in its Visakhapatnam plant. The investment has paid off and now other companies have shown an interest. The process knowhow could even be exported.

That's more than sufficient reward for Paul Ratnasamy and the 40 chemists and chemical engineers of NCL's catalysis group who developed the process. No ivory tower scientists, they.

Beetle Battle

● THE water hyacinth has beautiful flowers but it's a pest nonetheless, clogging waterways and throttling lakes. For decades, the only way of checking its onward march was to physically pull it out of the water, dry it in the sun and set it on fire. The method usually failed because the speed at which the hyacinth proliferated far outstripped the attempts to destroy it. The battle against the water hyacinth seemed forever unwinnable.

Exotic beetles: new allies



Then, in 1984, biologists enlisted a new ally in the fight against the hyacinth: a black beetle native to Brazil, which feeds on the hyacinth's succulent leaves by scraping off the chlorophyll, thereby destroying it. The beetle is working wonders in waterways in seven states. Says Dr Meera Gupta, assistant director of the Central Biological Control Station, Hyderabad: "All one has to do is to lower plants with the beetles at different places in weed-infested waters. The beetles do the rest of the work." The two species of beetle that have been imported feed only on the water hyacinth during their three-month life cycle. As larvae they feed on the tissues and stem of the hyacinth and as adults they feed on the leaves.

With a female beetle laying up to 700 eggs in the course of its life, the war against the hyacinth might well be won. But what after that? Will the beetle turn to other plants and in the process become a pest itself? No, say biologists. Their numbers will decline with the fall in the area infested by hyacinth.

Discovering Science

● IT costs a whopping Rs 10-crore but the four-storeyed B.M. Birla Science Museum which opened in Hyderabad in March is well worth the expense. At least, the gaping looks on the faces of visitors seem to say so.

A visitor: active participation

Take the laughing Buddha exhibit, for instance, with one half of a Buddha drawn on one side and another half on the other. Twirl it and the two halves merge into one image, a result of what scientists call the persistence of vision. The laughing Buddha is just one of the scores of exhibits in the museum on a variety of subjects: mechanics and life sciences, optics and computers, robots and astronomy. An interactive computer system gives visitors details about any exhibit on tapping a key.

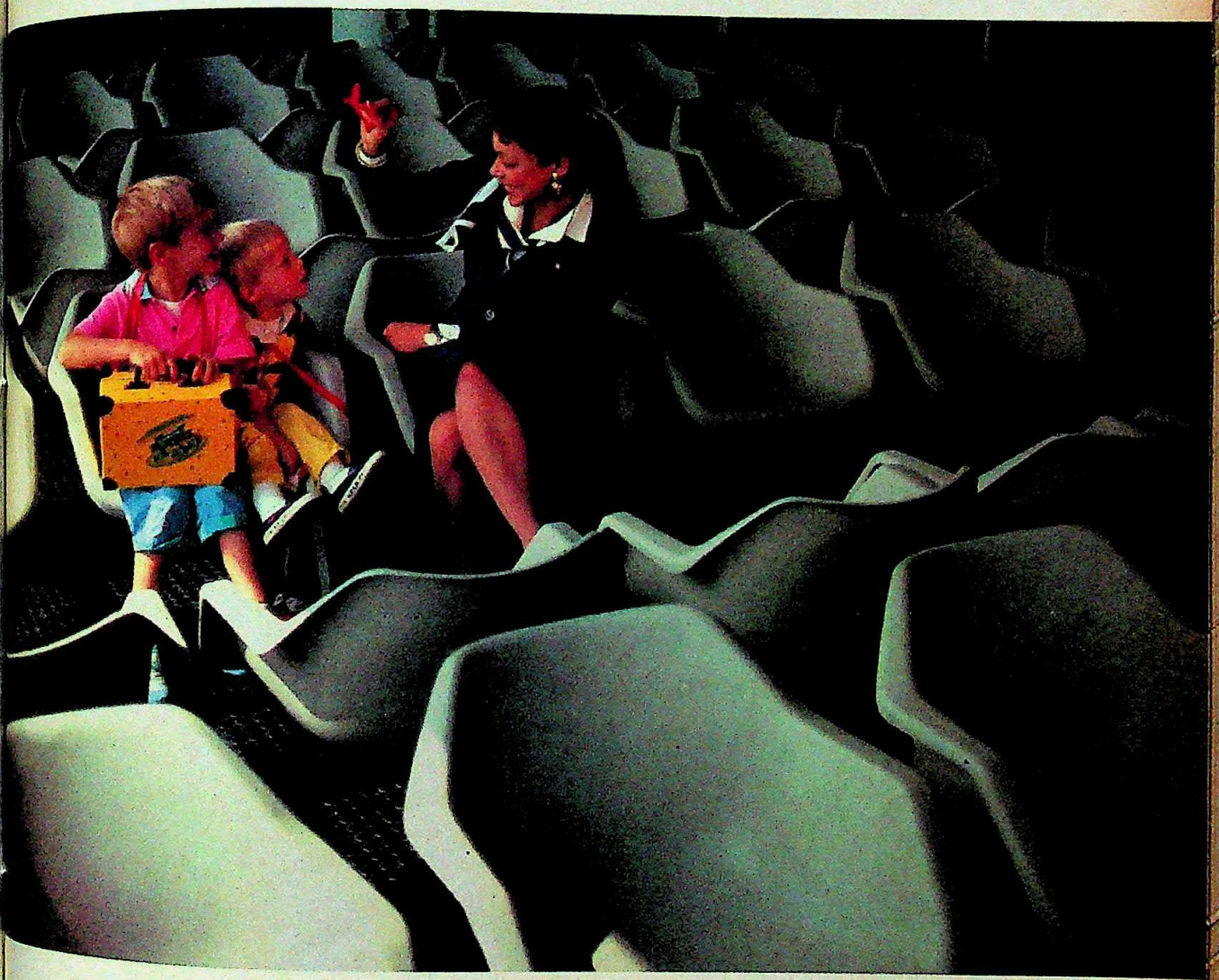
What's special about the Birla museum is that it encourages visitors to actively participate in the joy of discovery. Says B.G. Sidharth, director of the B.M. Birla Science Centre: "Anyone, adult or child, is free to tug, twiddle, tap and thump the exhibits and discover the magic of science."

—AMARNATH K. MENON

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some of our frequent travellers cannot even read

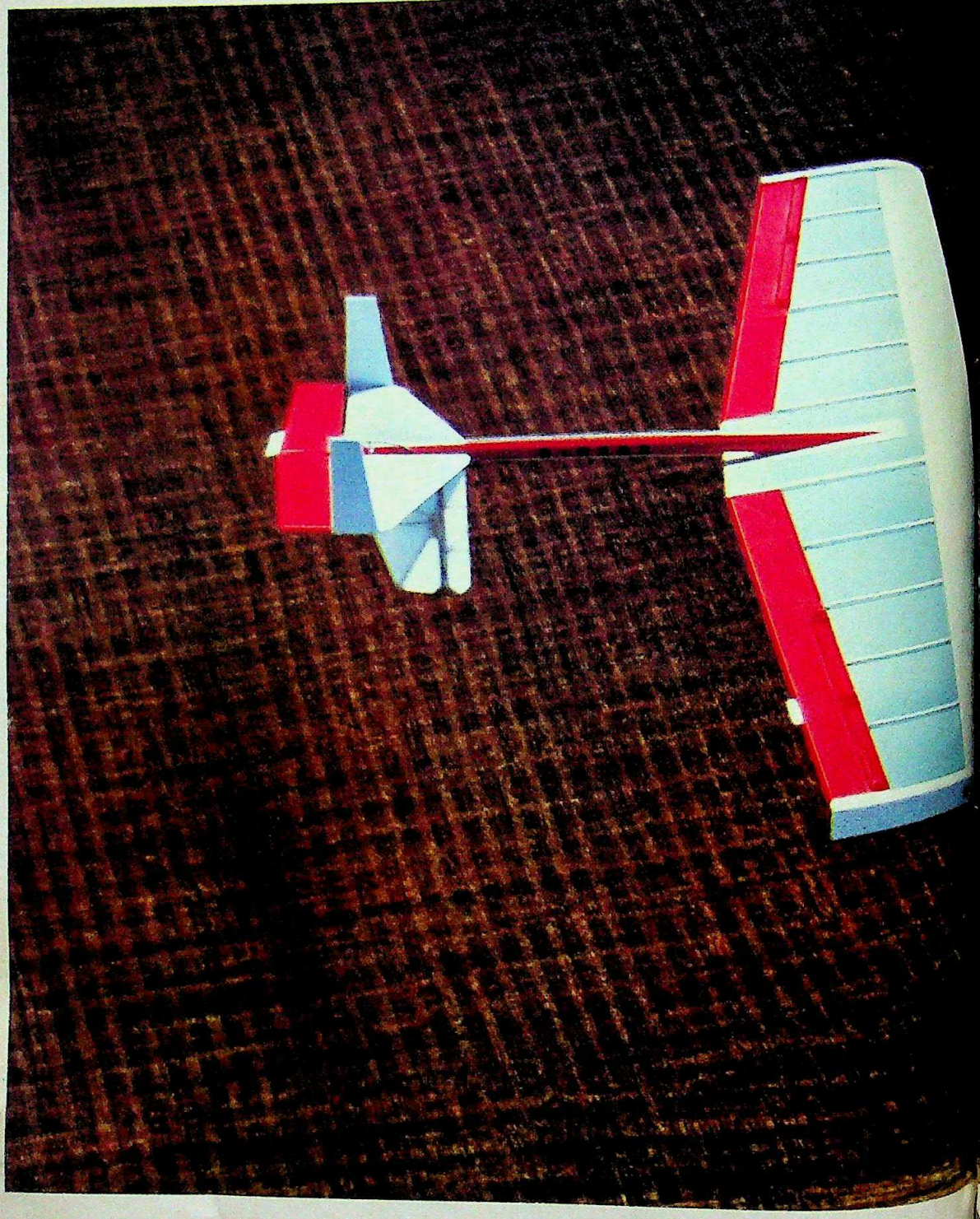


Lufthansa

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

You don't have to set a world flying record in a microlight to be a Raymond's man.



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

in a

Vijaypat Singhania, aviator, photographer, publisher, industrialist, can't help being a Raymond's man. He's the Chairman of the Company. His suit: "Microlite", an exclusive blend of Extra Fine Merino Wool.

You don't have to break a world record to be a Raymond's man. For that matter, you don't even have to be a Raymond's man. ... but it helps.

Raymond's

Never say no to life.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CROWN MULTIVISION.

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO NEED TWO TELEVISIONS AND WANT TO BUY ONLY ONE.

Because your family has more than one member, Crown Multivision allows you to

enjoy two programmes. On the same screen. At the same time. Yes, its almost like

owning two televisions. Because Crown Multivision doesn't just give you a picture-in-

picture, it also gives you sound-in-picture. And much, much more. A 3 freeze facility,

stereo-sound and a special comb-filter that creates the clearest picture possible. Features

that make the Crown Multivision unique. What's more, the thoughtfulness doesn't

end here. Crown Multivision has its controls where they belong. Right on top.

The next time you want to watch cricket and your wife wants to watch Mahabharat,

don't argue. Just get yourself a Crown Multivision. Contact

your nearest Crown dealer for a free demonstration, today.

CROWN

MULTIVISION

Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Sex and Satire

Send up of English foibles

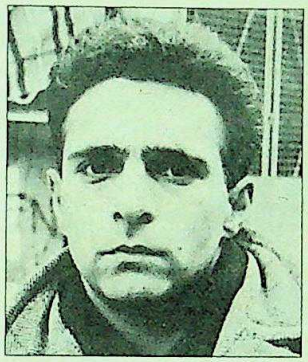
THE BUDDHA OF SUBURBIA
by HANIF KUREISHI
Faber & Faber
Pages: 284; Price: Rs 150

"AM I the one single normal person left in England now?" asks Changez, with a mushroom shaped stub for an arm, who's been imported from Bombay to marry Jamilla, daughter of Anwar, the born-again Muslim shopkeeper. The question is not mere rhetoric. She, an activist, swings both ways, as do many others in Hanif Kureishi's delightfully funny and sharply carnal carnival of a novel—clearly headed for controversy, in the manner of his earlier two plays.

Not only is ambidextrous love the flavour of the day; characters choose genders as casually as others would a pair of jeans. There really isn't a single normal Englishman. Kureishi has served up an amusement-park-London and suburbia: characters glimpsed through distorting mirrors which are not untruths, only exaggerated truths. Greedy Indian immigrants shoring up in the new world. Street-smart second generation Indians, toughened by their South London working class milieu, for whom India is nothing more than the aroma of kebabs and curry. Trendy North London liberals with acquisitive hearts: "iron ambition under the crushed-velvet idealism". The suburban English with their "double glazing" and racism. Socialist theatre directors whose slumming in the third-world-in-England is directed by box-office dictates. A Bowie-like pop hero with "manufactured rage". The title Buddha, a marvellously-drawn portrait of the Indian who makes it from the wasteland of suburbia, through working class South London to the heart of radical chic London in West Kensington on his gift of the gab and mumbo-jumbo Eastern spirituality.

Kureishi's guide-narrator in this book is Karim Amir, the Buddha's 17-year-old son, who like him is born of an English mother and a subcontinental father (Kureishi's own father is Pakistani). Karim, a sort of bi-sexual Pan takes us on an adult Alice-in-wonderland journey from suburbia to Kensington and into the lap of Hampstead elite, all the while indiscriminately distributing sexual largesse, and exposing the hypocrisies and foibles of both the English and the immigrant societies. A cross between a script for the *Carry On* series and Jack Kerouac's *On the Road* (one of the author's favourite books), the novel is also a perceptive account of England's bitter class struggles.

Kureishi: delightful mirth



EXCERPT

Dad had always felt superior to the British: this was the legacy of his Indian childhood-political anger turning into scorn and contempt. For him in India the British were ridiculous, stiff, unconfident, rule-bound...You couldn't let the ex-colonialists see you on your knees, for that was where they expected you to be. They were exhausted now; their empire was gone; their day was done and it was our turn.

This is England moulded by the swinging '60s, the exploding '70s, the women's and black movements, a pre-AIDS England in which experimentation was an end in itself. This is not so much a coming-of-age novel but a coming through novel for this "British man with an Indian component"—as Kureishi describes himself.

Kureishi has been criticised for presenting an unflattering picture of the Asian community. To which he has retorted that he is not into "PR" or advertising. Sex, race and colonialism-at-home are the invariables in his work. He has once again sent up, with mirth and savage satire, both the indigenous British and the immigrants and their offspring.

—MADHU JAIN

Myths Exposed

Memsahib image debunked

THE DUST IN THE BALANCE:
British Women in India 1905-1945
by PAT BARR
Hamish Hamilton
Distributed by Rupa and Co.
Pages: 185; Price: Rs 425

THIS is not another addition to the already substantial literature purveying Raj nostalgia. There is little of the exotic romance of *The Far Pavilions*, the clarion call of Empire which echoes through the Raj Quartet or the Maharaja glamour of *Heat and Dust*. Above all, the main concern of *The Dust in the Balance* is to defy the memsahib stereotype in order to evolve a plain tale of worthy British women who, much more than their peers, attempted to penetrate the colossal reality of India.

Missionaries, nurses, doctors, teachers, planter's wives, army wives and women who, quite simply, saw charity as an abiding duty, tell their stories with a simple charm which evades boredom. The stylistic structure of the book borders on the casual, based as it is on a semi-journalistic method of letting the subjects speak for themselves through first-person interviews.

This creates an essentially humanistic context for the detailing of lives which may appear historically insignificant but helped to improve the lives of India's countless wretched. The book emphasises that all the women interviewed defied the strict hierarchies of imperial necessity.

The Dust in the Balance provides some notable examples. There is the stout-hearted, sensibly-clad 31-year-old spinster, Miss Florence Wyld, who literally introduced women's primary and secondary education into the cloistered *purdah* society of the Nizam's Hyderabad. This was not an easy task in a social atmosphere where convention dictated every nuance of life. Starting with a mere four teachers and four pupils, there were a hundred students on the rolls by the time Florence Wyld retired, and she had actually managed to teach physical geography to timorous veiled girls "whose first-hand experi-

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ence of the earth's surface was confined within the *purdah*-imposed boundaries of the city".

Much more than the educationists, the real tribute of *The Dust in the Balance* is paid to the numerous nurses and doctors who brought western notions of hygiene into a country where a commonplace event like childbirth was left to the medically illiterate *dai* (midwife).

Once again, the author chooses her examples not merely for their capacity to do untold good, but also to relate their experiences with an entertaining undercurrent. We hear the unflappable voice of Dr Eileen Morris, a medical graduate from University College, London, who sailed forth to join St. Stephen's Hospital (opened by Lady Dufferin in 1885) located in a crowded corner of old Delhi: "The maternity ward was always full... women from the outlying valleys were carried to the hospital on *charpoys*... in a ghastly state, having been mauled about by the local *dai*."

EXCERPT

The hospital worked 'rather on the Robin Hood principle'—meaning that wealthy families were charged high fees, poor villagers hardly anything. The Community Sisters lived very frugally together and, Dr Morris said, 'When I first joined we had to wear grey frocks for winter and white in summer and we were known as the "grey ladies".' They were expected to follow 'quite a strict rule of life with services held during every day'. Bible women went round the wards with texts and Christian literature was laid out in the waiting rooms....

The Dust in the Balance displays an appealing candour as it moves from woman to woman—distant voices in an India that was swept away with the last bugle-call of Empire.

Pat Barr deserves commendation for preserving the heartfelt experiences of women who toiled, often in isolation, under a ravaging tropical sun. Their stories are narrated with wit, simplicity and a tremendous feel.

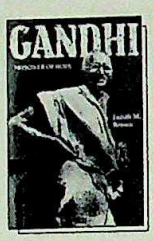
Clearly, *The Dust in the Balance* has not been written in vain. If an apologia for imperial grandeur is needed, this book comes close to providing one.

—NISHA PURI

Difficult Icon

Biography reveals new facets

GANDHI: Prisoner of Hope
by JUDITH M. BROWN
Oxford University Press
Pages: 440; Price: Rs 290



THE first volume of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's autobiography, *My Experiments with Truth*, was published in 1927; the second volume surfaced in 1929. Both were written in Gujarati and priced at Re 1. Since then there have been innumerable biographies of Mahatma Gandhi, the entire trend culminating in Richard Attenborough's epochal film, *Gandhi*, in 1982.

The question that arises now is: is there anything new remaining to be said about Gandhi? Reading Judith Brown's masterly biography of the great saint-politician, the answer is a categorical 'yes'. What is distinct about her work is that it is not merely a narration of the main events of the well-known life of the 'father of the Indian nation', but also a portrait of Gandhi, the man and the person; it is a portrait of not only the 'Mahatma' but also of the 'Bapu'; and it is a picture of not only the politician but also of the son, the father and the husband.

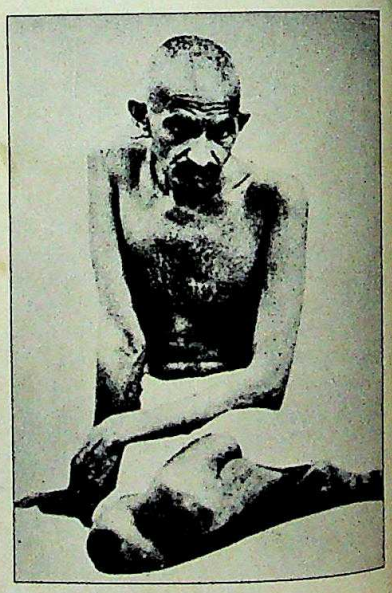
It explores, through considerable new archival research, the inner dilemmas of a leader, not always victorious—as those who have put him on a pedestal tend to believe—but often in deep gloom; not always declaratory and triumphant, but often in contemplative retreat. Historians of peoples and places tend to focus on the peaks and shallows; this particular work dwells equally on the plateaus that stretch for long distances between the two.

Brown begins with a succinct summary of the impact of British rule in India as a backdrop to Gandhi's birth in 1869. She then traces the evolution of Gandhi, the political agitationist—from the petty politics of Kathiawad to the national stage in India. The spiritual evolution of Gandhi, inseparable from his politics, is dexterously interwoven.

Important events are analysed to identify Gandhi's impact, his choices and options, in the context of the time, place and circumstance. Considerable space is given to Gandhi's views on matters other than politics: diet, personal hygiene, education, health and sex. For instance, Gandhi attempted a celibate life when still in his early 30s. In his autobiography he recalls that he was in bed with his wife when his ailing father died. Brown feels that Gandhi could never outlive this childhood association of sex with guilt.

Many of Gandhi's views—and not only in matters of sex—would even be difficult for a modern Indian to understand, leave alone someone from the West. Brown's approach, however, is to treat Gandhi, in such matters, as a man of his time and place, with a particular philosophic and religious background. There is no derisive condescension here; even criticism is in the form of careful comment, not hasty dismissal.

There is no doubt that even Gandhi's fads became elevated to the level of principles by the touch of his idealism and the force of his convictions. Each of



Gandhi: impossible to emulate

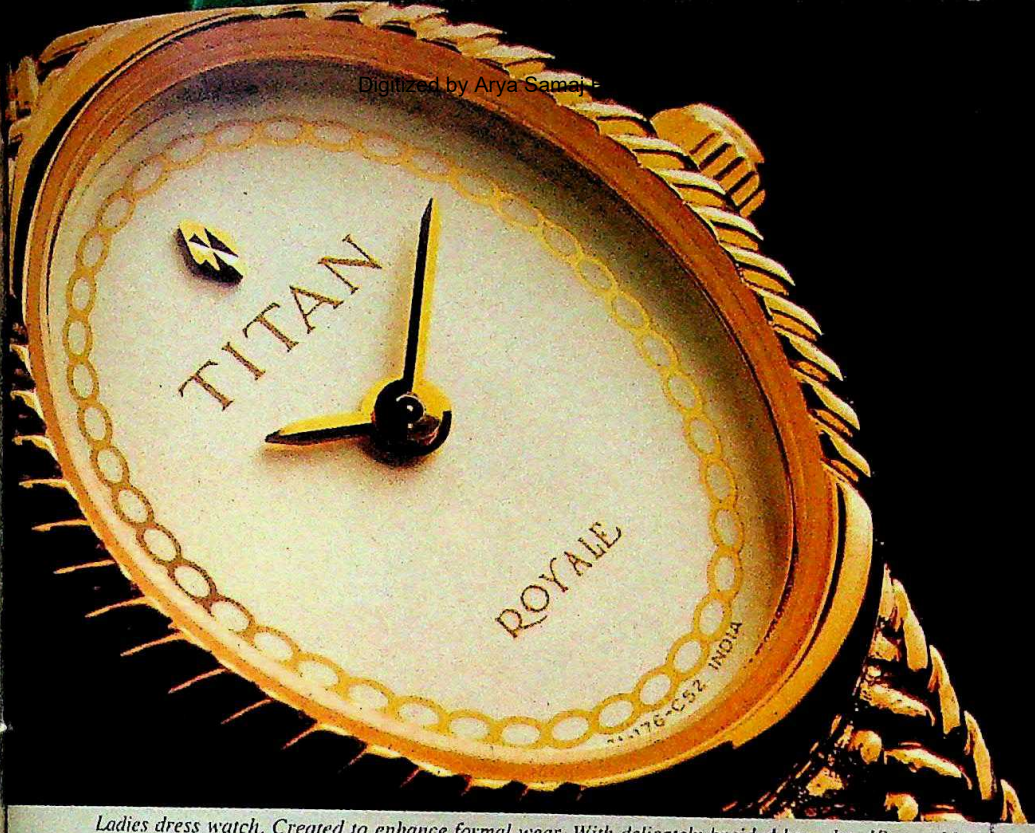
his tools—ahimsa, satyagraha and non-cooperation—had their contradictions and limitations, and yet taken together they nurtured to victory the world's most unique anti-imperialist revolution.

The problem is that Gandhi's personal morality and idealism were so absolute that they were incapable of emulation. In part, therefore, his legacy has been to spawn the most widespread hypocrisy in Indian public life: lip service to the ideals of the father of the nation, self-service in pursuit of the very things he spent a life-time trying to eliminate.

—PAVAN K. VARMA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj



*Ladies dress watch. Created to enhance formal wear. With delicately braided bracelet. 18 ct gold plating. Rs. 1062**

Why risk buying a smuggled watch when you can get a world class Titan Quartz from Tata?

80% of the watches smuggled into India are fake or substandard. So should you still buy one when you know you may be cheated?

No longer do you need to risk buying a smuggled watch, or worry about the cost or inconvenience of repairing even a genuine import.

Now you can buy a world class watch from Tata: Titan Quartz. Choose from an international collection of over 350 fine quartz watches. From Rs. 380 onwards.

With Titan Quartz you have the Tata assurance of many years of faultless performance. And every watch is guaranteed for two years. Our after-sales network offers service with speed and economy. Battery replacement costs only Rs. 17 at authorised service centres.

With Titan Quartz, you'll never have to take any chances. Not ever.

Titan Quartz from Tata. The changing face of time.

Rs. 1193*

Rs. 388*

Rs. 895*

Rs. 1610*

Rs. 656*

TITAN
QUARTZ

*PRICES ARE INCLUSIVE OF ALL LEVIES IN DELHI

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CORPORATE OFFICE: Sona Towers, 71, Miller Road, Bangalore 560 052. Ph: 265051.
REGIONAL OFFICE: 423-A, World Trade Centre, Barakhamba Lane, New Delhi 110 001. Ph: 2316082

Go Newstracking in May

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Devi Lal :
Coup-de-Tau

Om Prakash Chautala :
Middle aged brat of Haryana

Red Light Children :
Born to lose

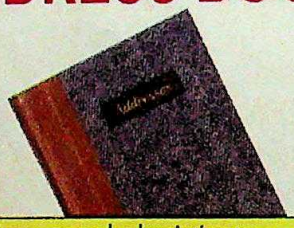
Ravi Shankar :
His music, his life

Dev Anand :
Romancing fit at 65

Plus: An International Capsule

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS

FREE INDIA TODAY ADDRESS BOOK



Rs. 1380/- for an annual subscription to ***NEWSTRACK*** i.e. 12 cassettes and a free INDIA TODAY ADDRESS BOOK, exquisitely bound in real herring bone tweed. This offer is valid upto June 30, 1990. Address books will be delivered at your given address.

SINGLE CASSETTE OFFER

Rs. 145/- for a single cassette of the current issue.

DISCOUNTED BACK-ISSUES

Rs. 135/- for each back issue of ***NEWSTRACK*** Please give details of which volumes you wish to order.

Please draw your remittance in favour of Living Media India Ltd. by cheque/DD and mail alongwith your name and address to LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD., P.O. BOX 29, NEW DELHI-110 001.
Cheques/Demand Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

In case the subscription coupon below has already been used by someone else, please write to us at the address given above enclosing the required amount and details of the issues you want/the month you desire your subscription to commence from. Please allow 2-3 weeks for us to process and action your subscription.

Cassettes will be home delivered by Courier or Registered Post.

-cut here-

Yes, I want to subscribe to ***NEWSTRACK***. Enclosed is my subscription remittance by cheque/DD No. _____ dated _____ for

- ☐ Rs. 145/- for a single copy of the May issue.
- ☐ Rs. 135/- each for the back issues of the month of _____
- ☐ Rs. 1380/- for an annual subscription to ***NEWSTRACK*** commencing from the month of _____ and my free ***INDIA TODAY*** ADDRESS BOOK

Please deliver my cassette to

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Pin Code _____ Tel No. _____

This coupon can also be used for subscription renewal.
Please indicate your subscription no. _____

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TEMPLE ARTISTES

Vanishing Tribe

Traditional art forms face extinction

IT was a unique event. Over 300 temple artistes came together for a performance in Trivandrum last month to focus on their dying art forms. For the artistes, however, the pleasure of being in the limelight was subsumed by more practical considerations: they were getting Rs 75 a day for a week—an amount far exceeding what the temples paid them.

Today, few temples patronise these artistes and few spectators evince interest in their traditional art. As N. Krishnapoorthy—who directed the show for the Tourism Department—points out: "If the temple arts are surviving today, it is only because of the artistes' dedication."

The artistes are a vanishing tribe, caught between their commitment to their art and the biting reality of their poverty. Take Manian Pillai, 45, one of the half a dozen performers of the 1,800-year-old art of Mayuranrityam—a dance performed on stilts. Every morning he sets out from his one-room house in Ettumanoor in Kottayam district, scouring for work as a casual labourer. Says he: "If I don't do odd jobs, my family will starve."

Apart from satisfaction, his art has given him little else. Pillai is invited to only five or six programmes a year, for which he earns around Rs 600 a month. Even annual temple festivities that gave the artistes an opportunity to display their art have now been replaced by popular shows. Laments Pillai: "In the old days we were not allowed to work or perform outside the temple. Now no one wants to see our performances."

Around 80 years ago, temples were the epicentre of the performing arts. The artiste's needs were looked after by rich temples which owned huge tracts of property. Payments were not in cash, but in kind. But after the sweeping land reforms by the Marxist government in the '60s, lands were taken away from the temples, and their prosperity stunted. The worst sufferers were temple artistes. Gradually, performances became few and remuneration dwindled.

Pillai's plight is symptomatic of the state of temple arts in Kerala today. A performer of Kavadi dance, Unnikrishnan, 32, drives an auto. A fellow dancer Babu, 33, works as a headloader in Trichur. Lacking any other skill, most artistes are forced to take up petty jobs. Says Rajan, 27, a Poothamkali dancer who works as a carpenter: "All our performers are either labourers or carpenters." None can earn a living as a temple artiste. Says Balan, a Kummaty dancer who is also an electrician: "We are in it only to keep the art form alive."

But their efforts may prove to be a losing battle. Performances of Kodiyattam—a complicated enactment of Sanskrit drama by a single actor—are thinly attended. Other exotic dance forms in danger of disappearing are the complex Padayani, Poothamkali, where dancers wear fearful-looking masks, and Mudiattam, a dance involving violent movement of the head and beating of the chest. Says M.S. Kuttiashan, 55, who runs a troupe of seven girls performing Mudiattam: "Future generations are unlikely to see this art form."

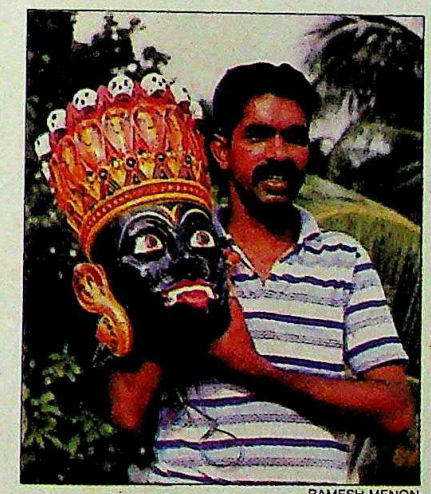
Interestingly, the Guruvayoor temple has patronised a 400-year-old temple art called Krishnaattam. All the 46 artistes are employed by the temple and perform nearly every night from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. The rigorous art takes a decade to learn—the average age of beginners is eight. But here too the ironies loom large. While the Guruvayoor Devasom Board prides itself for having the only Krishnaattam troupe in the world, the artistes themselves are paid only Rs 800 after 10 years of training.

In the meantime, organisations like the Vadakumuri Kummaty Committee and Margi, an institution that trains students in Kodiyattam, are struggling to keep the art forms alive. But one reason for the alienation of the ancient art forms is their strict grammar that allows for no experimentation. Says Chummar Choondal, a folklore expert: "If any art form has to survive, it has to change." Kodiyattam is in fact being diluted to please western tastes. And if it clicks, the occidental path may well become the only route to salvation for Kerala's once-famous temple arts.

—RAMESH MENON

M. SANKAR

■ Manian, a Mayuranrityam dancer, works as casual labourer; (below) Balan, a Kummaty dancer, is an electrician; (right) Babu, a Kavadi artiste, is a headload worker: eking out a bare living



RAMESH MENON

JANARDHAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

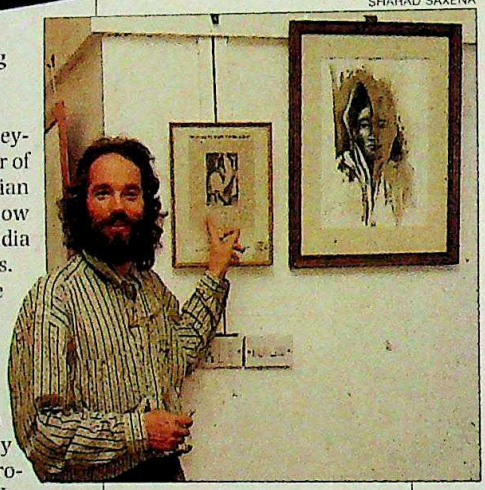
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Zeenat ad: wafting India abroad

◆ Having in her heyday brought a flavour of the West to the Indian screen, she will now carry the whiff of India to foreign lands. **Zeenat Aman**, in the manner of Joan Collins and Liz Taylor, is lending her name to a new perfume being made by a French company which wanted a product reminiscent of India. Zeenat is also lending her face for the advertising blitz, which will launch the perfume in Sri Lanka, Dubai and the Far East next month. Then she will pleasantly waft across Europe and the US. Says she: "I feel really happy that they chose me out of so many to be named as a perfume." With typical irony, Zeenat, the perfume, will not be for sale in India. We here will have to continue to settle for the real thing.

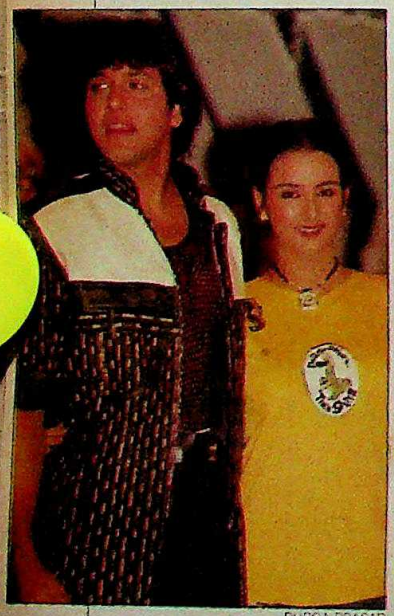
◆ At moments like these art is helpless before life. Petite Anshu, 20, stood before her portrait, silent, a pink *dupatta* covering her face, corroded badly by the acid flung on her by four young men. The portrait was a homage to her by American artist **Thomas Easley**, 41. In fact, his exhibition at Delhi's Habiart Gallery paid homage to all of Indian womanhood. Easley came to India two years ago to finish his book, *The Mechanics of G.O.D.* And stayed on to paint. Says he: "Under pressure, the Indian woman behaves like a goddess, and you just can't do this to a goddess." Fittingly, the Rs 15,000 the portrait fetched was given to Anshu for her treatment.

SHARAD SAXENA



Easley with portraits

◆ It's a typical Bollywood story. The heroes are **Govinda** and **Chunky Pandey**, the heroine **Farha**, and the comedian **Johnny Lever**. The four attend a party thrown by an underworld don, say Dawood Ibrahim, in Dubai's Hyatt Regency hotel. A rival gang of the don in Bombay, say the Arun Gawli group, comes to know of it, and in a fit of perverse pique, targets the stars for killing. Sufficiently wild plotting, in keeping with filmdom's standards. Just that it's all for real, and four goons of the Gawli gang arrested by the local police have spilled the beans. Meanwhile, the stars are running scared, and have resorted to reporting on sets with police escorts and bodyguards. Mopes Chunky Pandey: "I'm a nice guy. I've always behaved nicely with all people. Why does anyone want to kill me?"



DURGA PRASAD

Govinda and Farha

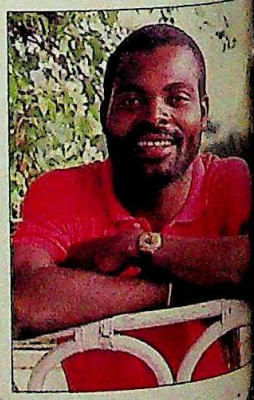
Kapoor (inset) with untitled sculpture: carving a niche

◆ Come May, and **Anish Kapoor** will be toting large stones to Venice. No, he is no quarry owner, ferrying his samples abroad for trade. On the contrary, Kapoor has been chosen to represent Britain at the Venice Biennale, the most prestigious modern art show in Europe. The 36-year-old sculptor has been influenced by the variety of India, but is very much a part of the tradition that has produced Epstein, Moore and Anthony Caro. A Doon School student, who left India at 19 to attend art school in Britain, he feels the cross-pollination of cultures has contributed in a large way to his success. Says he: "I realised I am an Indian who happened to live in Britain. That gave me a context." The context is buttressed by its rich reverberations: his works now sell for as much as £90,000.

◆ The Indianisation of **Cheema Okerie**, the Nigerian who came to India to study and stayed to play soccer, seems complete. He recently received the unique distinction of captaining the East Bengal side in the 1990 football season—the first foreigner to lead one of Calcutta's three premier teams. His detractors claim he is overrated. Yet Mohan Bagan, reportedly offered him a staggering Rs lakh to play for them this year.

Okerie: honorary Indian

SATYAJIT



but the 'Black Panther' declined. Says Okerie: "Football is not like mathematics. We're going to work hard. I can't tell you we'll win all the trophies." Of course, winning Calcuttan hearts is a can be sure of.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

For the gracious people

W.D.&H.O.WILLS
GOLD FLAKE
HONEY DEW

Quality that's forever

MADE IN INDIA
BRAND OWNED
BY I.T.C. LTD.

Every genuine
WILLS GOLD FLAKE
cigarette bears the name
W.D. & H.O. WILLS

STATUTORY WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CLARION C-GFK-16R1

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Bajaj Auto's sales for 1989-90 have crossed Rs 1,000 crore.

Production of scooters, motorcycles and three-wheelers has crossed a record 800,000 vehicles.

Our congratulations to all our employees, dealers and vendors who have made these achievements possible.

And our deep gratitude to our millions of customers for their faith in Bajaj Auto in providing them value for money.

Our next goal is one million vehicles a year, from this year.

bajaj auto

AKURDI PUNE 411 035

You just can't beat a bajaj

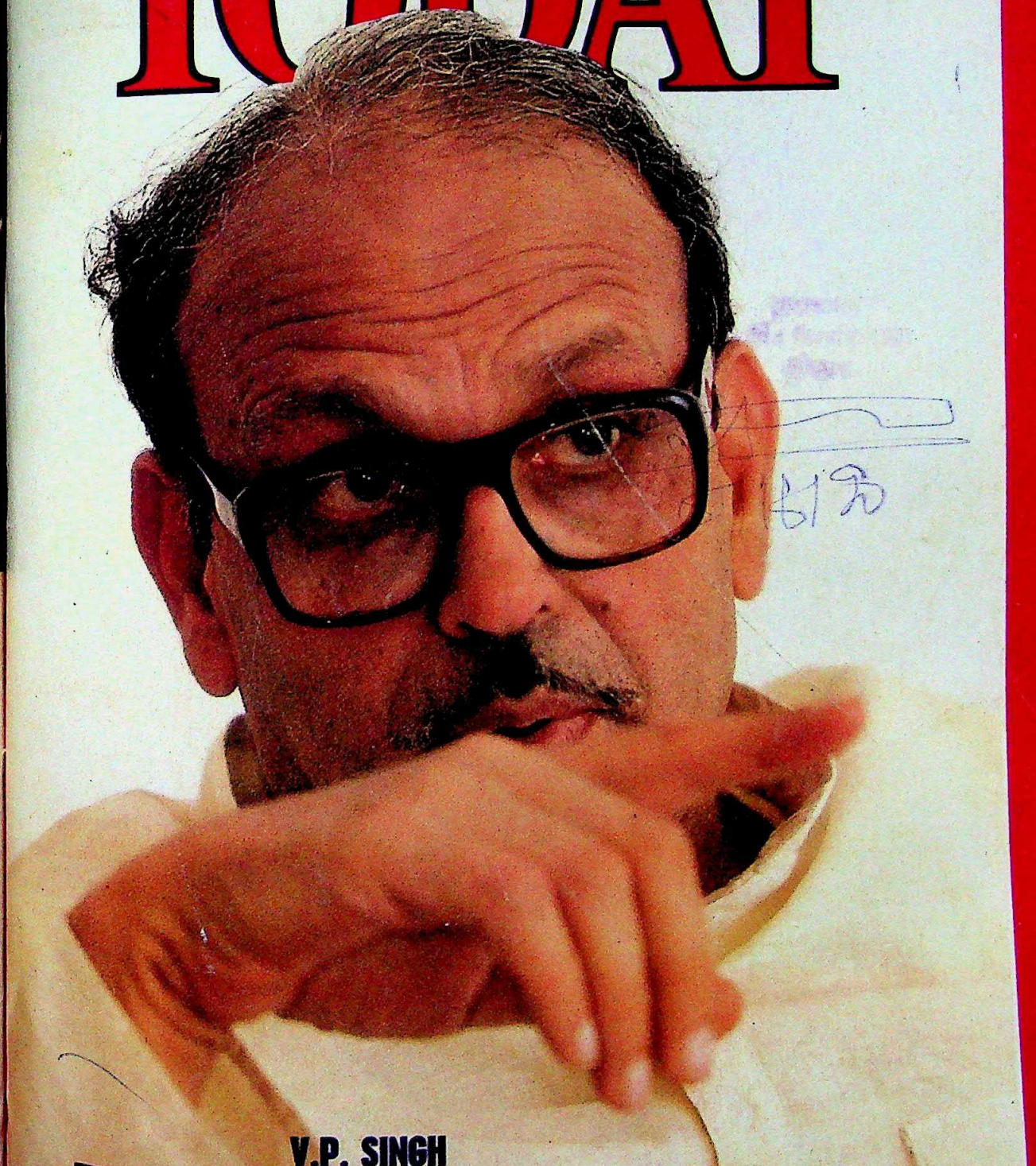
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

"I'll do what I have to" INTERVIEW WITH V.P. SINGH

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY

JUNE 15, 1990



V.P. SINGH

THE ARTFUL DODGER

The Jagmohan-Chautala resignations show Singh as a master of intrigue. But he is still bedevilled by serious problems.

CC-0. Panini Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Collection. Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

LIVE LIFE KINGSIZE

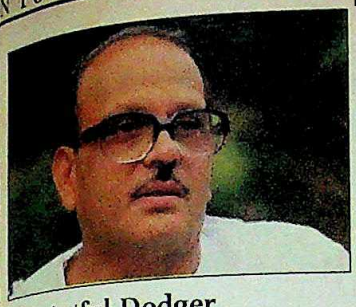
FOUR SQUARE KINGS

All the taste, all the w

STATUTORY WARNING : CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

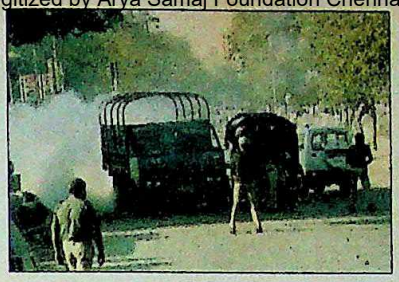
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



The Artful Dodger

Exactly six months after coming to power, V.P. Singh has finally asserted himself by forcing Om Prakash Chautala's resignation and Jagmohan's removal. An inside view of how he's tackled the crises that have engulfed his government. Also, an exclusive interview with V.P. Singh

COVER STORY 22



A Beirut in the Making

Karachi, Pakistan's biggest city and only major port, is riven by ethnic clashes among the Sindhis, Mohajirs and Pakhtoons. Gang warfare and kidnappings have resulted in 376 deaths so far this year. With guns and gangs holding sway, Karachi is on the threshold of anarchy.

SPECIAL REPORT 39

The New Targets

The London-based Hindujas are among the richest expatriate Indians. They own petroleum companies and trade in arms. Now their business dealings with India are under close scrutiny by the Government, especially since Gopi Chand has been accused in the HDW and Bofors scandals.

SPECIAL REPORT 34

Paying the Price

The ground the Government had reclaimed in the Kashmir valley was surrendered when security forces opened fire on the turbulent procession bearing the body of the slain Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq. The subsequent removal of Governor Jagmohan was an inevitable corollary.

CURRENT EVENTS 45

A Bawdy Festival

Eunuchs from all over the country gather at the sedate Koovagam village in Tamil Nadu every year to celebrate the *thali* festival. The ritual gives them a feeling of brotherhood and for many, who lead a seemingly normal life otherwise, a chance to indulge in their closet fantasies.

PHOTO FEATURE 76

The Green Revolution

In balconies and living-rooms, in verandahs and gardens, urban India is wrapping itself in a verdant blanket. The sudden awareness of the joys of gardening has also fuelled an entire industry—of seed suppliers, landscape designers, bonsai teachers and suppliers of gardening equipment.

SPECIAL FEATURE 134

CONTENTS

COMMENT 11
CAPITALOOK 14
VOICES 19
INDIANOTES 20
COVER STORY
V.P. Singh: The Artful Dodger 22
SPECIAL REPORTS
The Hindujas: The New Targets 34
Karachi: A Beirut in the Making 39
CURRENT EVENTS
Kashmir: Paying the Price 45
Inside Eye: Pied Piper 51
Orissa: Crack Down 54
Subhas Ghising: Falling Stock 59
Bottomline: Who's Who 60
Haryana: Fall From Grace 65
Andhra Pradesh: Uphill Task 72
Sign Posts 72
PHOTO FEATURE
Eunuchs: A Bawdy Festival 76
TRADE WINDS 89
BUSINESS
Oil: The Coming Crunch 91
Credit Cards: New Player 92
Fertilisers: Heads Roll 95
Corporate Profits: Touching a New High 96
Businesspeak 101
Commercial Loans: Costly Affair 102
Rural Window: The Combine Way 107
The Markets: Jittery Phase 109
THE ECONOMY MONITOR 110
CINEMA
Pakistan: Celluloid Vengeance 115
GLOBE-TROTTING
Iskcon: Existential Crisis 117
SPECIAL FEATURE
Human Hair: Quick Growth Industry 119
THE ARTS
Ebrahim Alkazi: Breaking the Barriers 123
AVIATION
IC 605 Inquiry: Disputed Findings 129
DIPLOMACY
The US: A Crucial Mission 132
SPECIAL FEATURE
Gardening: The Green Revolution 134
BOOKS
Star Turn 141
Cinematic Eye 142
Intense Musings 142
AMONG BOOKS
A Poll Casualty 147
FASHION
NIFT: Out of Fashion 150
HEALTH
Madhya Pradesh: Dangerous Drugs 155
EYE-CATCHERS 160

Cover photograph by BHAWAN SINGH

MARK MILLION FOUR SQUARE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The most pampered cars in India

use Dunlop Radial Class tyres.

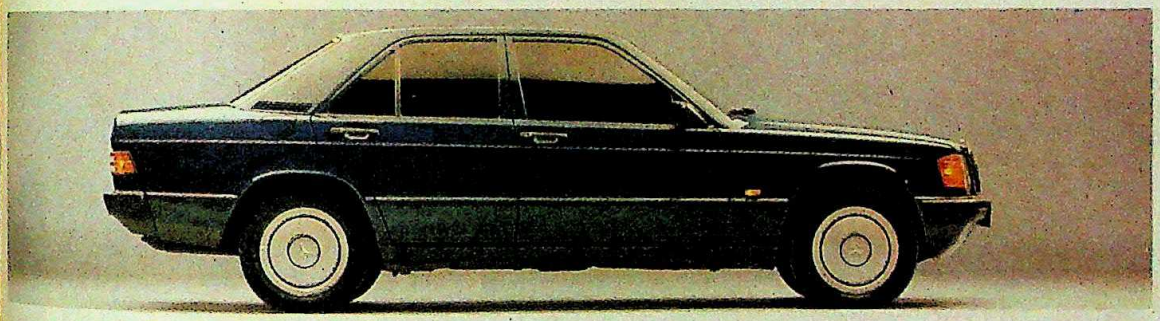
Like Mercedes, Toyota, BMW

and Honda.

Not to mention Maruti, Contessa,

Premier 118 NE and Standard 2000.

How To Spoil A Mercedes Benz.



Because Dunlop Radial Class has

soft-flex walls that make it the radial

with the maximum cushioning.

Dunlop Radial Class.

Guaranteed to spoil the best cars

in the world.

DUNLOP

RADIAL CLASS

DUNLOP IS DUNLOP. ALWAYS AHEAD.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HUDA OFFERS INSTITUTIONAL SITES AT

GURGAON

IN SECTOR–32

AN EXCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONAL AREA OF 294 ACRES PROVIDING PLOTS

Heavy Rebate up to 20

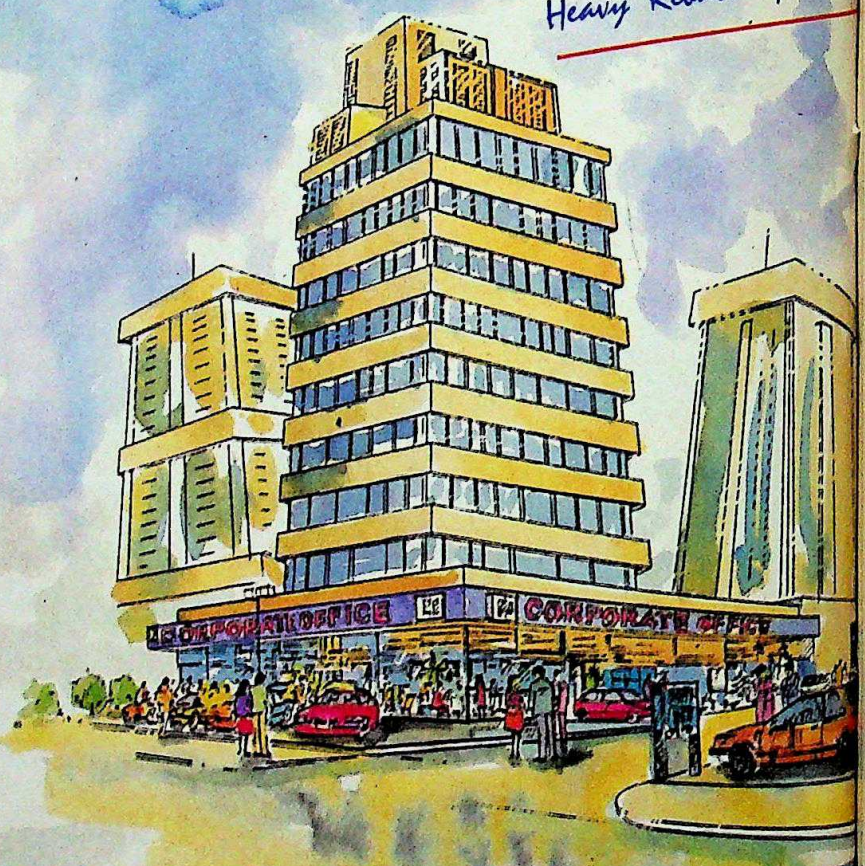
- IN A HIGHLY PROSPECTIVE AREA OF THE NATIONAL CAPITAL REGION AT MOST AFFORDABLE PRICES COMPARED TO THE CAPITAL.
- OF SIZES RANGING FROM 540 TO 8000 SQ. MTS. TO SUIT ALL REQUIREMENTS.
- EASILY ACCESSIBLE—ON DELHI—JAIPUR NEW NATIONAL HIGHWAY NO. 8.
- EFFICIENT COMMUNICATION WITH DELHI & ENTIRE COUNTRY THROUGH MOST MODERN TELEPHONE & TELEX SYSTEM AS PROPOSED IN N.C.R. PLAN
- AN EXCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONAL CAMPUS WITH FACILITIES OF CONVENTION HALL, CONFERENCE COMPLEX, SHOPPING CENTRE & TENNIS STADIA.
- SITES FOR RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION FOR EMPLOYEES, AND EXECUTIVES OF THESE INSTITUTIONS/ COMPANIES CAN BE PROVIDED IN CONTIGUOUS SECTOR.

FOR

- RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
- EDUCATION & TRAINING
- CORPORATE OFFICES

OF

GOVT. DEPTTS : PUBLIC SEMI-PUBLIC ORGANISATIONS : BOARDS & CORPORATIONS & UNDERTAKING AND PRIVATE COMPANIES



FORMS AVAILABLE **FROM : 30.5.90**
AT THE FOLLOWING BRANCHES OF :

CENTRAL BANK OF INDIA

1. Defence Colony, New Delhi
2. Gulmohar Park, New Delhi
3. Parliament Street, New Delhi
4. Nariman point, Bombay
5. Bank Street - Hyderabad
6. Miller Ganj, Ludhiana
7. Karnal main
8. Gurgaon
9. Sector 22-C, Chandigarh
10. Ghaziabad

PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK

1. Sector 19-C, Chandigarh
2. Gurgaon
3. N.I.T., Faridabad
4. Hissar
5. Bikhaji Cama Palace, New Delhi
6. ECE House, New Delhi
7. Nehru Place, New Delhi
8. NOIDA
9. Civil Lines, Jullundur
10. Brabourn Road, Calcutta

Details of Plots :

Category of Plots	Area in Sq. Mts.	Plots for Private Companies/Organisations		Plots for Govt. Deptt. & Public Sector Undertak	
		No's offered	Rate Rs per Sq. Mts.	No's offered	Rate Rs. per Sq
2 Acres	8000	3	1500/-	7	1200
1 Acre	4000	5	–do–	17	–do
1/2 Acre	2000	5	–do–	12	–do
4 Bay	1079	2	–do–	4	–do
2 Bay	539.5	3	–do–	10	

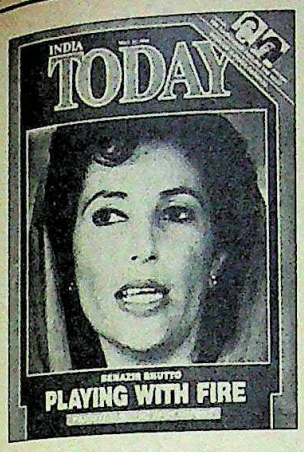
HUDA

CHIEF ADMINISTRATOR,
HARYANA URBAN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY,
S.C.O. NO. 841, MANIMAJRA (U.T.)
CHANDIGARH

CLOSING DATE 30.7.90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



GAME OF BRINKMANSHIP

Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's shrill rhetoric will not only push her country into a war with India but also give a fatal blow to its fledgling democracy ("Playing with Fire" May 31). She should know that India-baiting carries with it the possibility of diminishing returns.

Bhubaneswar — MANOJ PUJARI

■ The people behind the Pakistani war machine should not lose sight of the age-old caveat that those who play with fire end up with burnt fingers.

Amritsar — R.C. KHANNA

ALARMING INCREASE

The rise in the prices of essential commodities is a consequence of the hike in petrol prices ("High Anxiety", May 31). The Government must check this trend. At the same time, it would do well to remember that the rising prices were a major reason for the Congress(I) debacle in the November general elections.

Patna — ANAND SIDDHARTHA

ROMANTIC REVIVAL

Maine Pyar Kiya ("Return to Romance", May 15) may lack the stamp of a genius, but it certainly shows that the taste of Indian audiences has undergone a sea change. No longer do people want mindless violence which had an adverse effect on them. They now go in for soft and refreshing themes that do not have a damaging effect on the mind.

Bangalore — K. CHIDANAND KUMAR

■ The reason for *Maine Pyar Kiya*'s success is the fact that there are no septuagenarian heroes chasing past-prime heroines. The music is mellifluous and the plot simple and captivating.

Baroda — M. NATARAJAN

■ Our film makers, who clutch at any straw these days, have gone overboard on movies with a love theme.

Baroda — AMIT LOIWAL

■ The love theme has always been projected in Indian movies. Films like *QSQT*, *Chandni* and *Maine Pyar Kiya* have been hits only because the theme has been treated with a difference. Viewers have appreciated the simplicity and effective character portrayal.

Madras — ROBIN PALARAMB

FACE THE CHALLENGE

"A Time for Togetherness" (May 15) voices the concern of every thinking Indian. We have already had a serious erosion of human values and a steep fall in the stature of the institutions provided by our democracy. At this critical juncture, instead of the politics-as-usual approach, can't we have united and determined action to meet the challenge of fundamentalist and separatist forces?

Gurgaon — O.P. RAGHAVA

Haji Naseer Ahmed

A CLARIFICATION

In "'Jehad' for Kashmiris" (May 31), the picture of Qazi Hussain Ahmed, Amir of Jamaat-e-Islami of Pakistan, has been used with the quote of the Khaksars camp chief Haji Naseer Ahmed. The error is regretted.

—Editor

A SPONTANEOUS ACT

It is creditable for you to have brought out the humane aspect of the story of the 1984 army deserters ("Paying the Price", May 15). The desertions were not a revolt but a spontaneous act triggered off by the emotional trauma of Operation Bluestar.

Calcutta — SARAN SINGH

SHAMEFUL ACT

The conduct of some people of Bihar in opposing the marriage of broad-minded individuals belonging to different communities is shocking ("Altar of Death", May 15). Even more distressing is the attitude of law enforcers. They have acted according to their misconceived notions of Indian culture and marriage, instead of abiding by the rules enshrined in the law book.

New Delhi — ARIMARDAN SINGH

■ As far as inter-caste marriages are concerned, Bihar seems to be living a 100 years behind the rest of India. It is sad that even educated police officers interpret the law of the country according to their personal prejudices.

Cuttack — ASHOK KUMAR SARANGI

■ The attitude of law enforcement officials of Bihar towards inter-caste marriages is shocking. The concerned police officers should be dismissed from service.

Madras — T.B. BHARATHI

OPEN NEGOTIATIONS

The only way to wean away Kashmiris from the influence of militants ("Stepping up the Pressure", May 15) is to restore the democratic process in Jammu & Kashmir. The Government should open negotiations with various political groups and hold free and fair elections at the earliest.

Faridabad — B.N. KOHLI

AVOIDABLE FORAYS

The decision of companies such as Mahindra Ugine Steel to set up three-

VOLUME XV NUMBER 11; FOR THE FORTNIGHT JUNE 1–15, 1990

● EDITORIAL OFFICE LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. F-14/15, CONNAUGHT PLACE NEW DELHI 110001. PHONE: 3315801–4. TELEX: 31-61245 INTO IN CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● SUBSCRIPTIONS: LIVING MEDIA INDIA LIMITED. POST BOX 706. FARIDABAD-121007, HARYANA ● TRADE CIRCULATION: INDIA TODAY CIRCULATION MANAGER. F-14 CONNAUGHT PLACE, MIDDLE CIRCLE, NEW DELHI. PHONE: 3313076–8. TELEX: 31-62634 INTO IN ● ADVERTISING OFFICES: 28 A&B JOLLY MAKER CHAMBER II, NARIMAN POINT, BOMBAY-400021. PHONE: 2026152, 2029326, 2029435, TELEX: 11-85573 THOM IN, CABLE: LIVMEDIA, BOMBAY ● K-9, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI-110001. PHONES: 3325378, 3323576, 3321323 AND 3321273, TELEX: 31-62124 THOM IN, CABLE: LIVMEDIA, NEW DELHI ● FAGUN CHAMBERS, 26 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROAD, MADRAS-600105, PHONE: 477188, 479163, CABLE: LIVMEDIA MADRAS ● 74/1 ST. MARKS ROAD, BANGALORE-560001, PHONE: 213037, 212448; CABLE: LIVMEDIA, BANGALORE ● 12C EVEREST 46C CHOWRINGEE ROAD, CALCUTTA-700016. PHONE: 445398, 447726, CABLE: LIVINMEDIA, CALCUTTA ● COPYRIGHT 1987 LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. REPRODUCTION IN ANY MANNER IS PROHIBITED. PUBLISHED BY AROON PURIE FOR LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. NEW DELHI AND PRINTED AT THOMSON PRESS INDIA LTD. FARIDABAD HARYANA ● INDIA TODAY DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURNING UNSOLICITED PUBLICATION MATERIAL ●

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

GIFT INDIA TO SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

GIFT FOR
ADDRESS
CITY CODE
COUNTRY

Please send one year's subscription of *INDIA TODAY*, International Edition and my gift card to the person named above Enclosed is my cheque*/DD*/(add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques, ie. outside Delhi) for Rs.....

payable to Living Media India Ltd

MY NAME
ADDRESS

Send this advertisement and payment to
Living Media India Ltd
P.B. No 706,
Faridabad 121 007

Annual Airmail Subscription Rates

Rs. 365 BANGLADESH BHUTAN NEPAL

Rs. 850 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES

*Cheques/Bank Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only

star hotels, and that of TVS to move into supermarkets is a cause for grave concern rather than a healthy sign of a growing economy ("Ballooning Growth", May 15). Indian manufacturers produce some of the most expensive steel in the world and our engineering products are notorious for their shoddiness. In this scenario, it makes much more sense to invest resources for improving manufacturing techniques than for selling chocolates and ice-cream.

Thane — S. LOVEKAR

SEVERE WHIP-LASH

"Selection Follies" (May 15) serves as a severe whip-lash to cricket selection committee Chairman Raj Singh Dungarpur. It will certainly make him take his foot out of his mouth.

Pondicherry — P. SARAVANAN

■ Your criticism of Raj Singh Dungarpur is not justified. After all, he is the only person in the history of cricket to have achieved a hat trick—manoeuvring to become the chairman of the selection committee, destroying Indian cricket, and proving Mohinder Amarnath right.

Allahabad — RAJEEV PANT

A NUISANCE

The boycott of video cassettes by viewers is one possible solution to the nuisance of superimposed ads ("Irritant Images", May 15). This will affect their circulation.

Kota — AJIT SINGHVI

COMMENDABLE ROLE

The intiatives taken by Dr Gita Bhave and Dr Y.N. Singh to prevent AIDS from becoming an Indian affair are commendable ("A Red Light", May 15). Their gains can be consolidated only if the people are educated about the perils of this disease.

Guwahati — ASHIS KANTI DEY

SAFETY FIRST

The outbreak of fire at Vigyan Bhawan is quite unfortunate ("Capital Loss", May 15). Not only has the mishap led to the destruction of the main venue for national and international conferences, but it has also raised serious questions about the inadequacy of fire-fighting equipment in high-rise buildings.

Meerut — SHASHANK SHEKHAR

■ It appears that no one thinks of emergencies till they arise. There have been several fire accidents in high-rise buildings in Delhi in the last few years but precautions have not been taken. Doubtlessly, the city has scant regard for fire safety norms.

Kanpur — PAREENAY MEHROTRA

PERTINENT POINT

The report of the Justice D.P. Wadhwa Committee in the Kiran Bedi case has raised more issues than it has settled ("In the Dock", May 15). Kiran Bedi has raised a pertinent point by asking if a judge, who has never faced the heat and dust of mob control, is competent to pass a judgement on how much force should have been used to disperse a violent mob.

In the larger interest of justice, a senior police officer should always be included in such inquiries.

Mangrol, Gujarat — SATISH SHARMA

RAW DEAL

It is very disgraceful on the part of the Maharashtra Government to victimise honest and upright officers ("Under Attack", May 15). Such treatment would only discourage honest IAS officers from standing up for the truth and shatter all hopes of a clean and efficient administration.

Nagpur — S.P. INAMDAR

NEED FOR CAUTION

The incidents of communal violence in Mathura and Kanpur ("Ominous Signs", May 15) reveal the extent of fanaticism in our country. In such a situation, it is important for the Government not to raise any issue that may lead to a flare-up.

Farrukhabad — M. AAMIR ALVI

NO UNEMPLOYMENT

"Raising a Wall" (April 30) gives a somewhat wrong impression of the situation in West Germany. Foreigners comprise about 10 per cent of the total population and face hostility in large cities, particularly in areas where they outnumber the original population. But in spite of the recent immigrations, West Germany doesn't face an acute unemployment problem, but suffers from a tremendous shortage of housing. So, the foreigners working here will not lose their jobs because of the influx of East Germans.

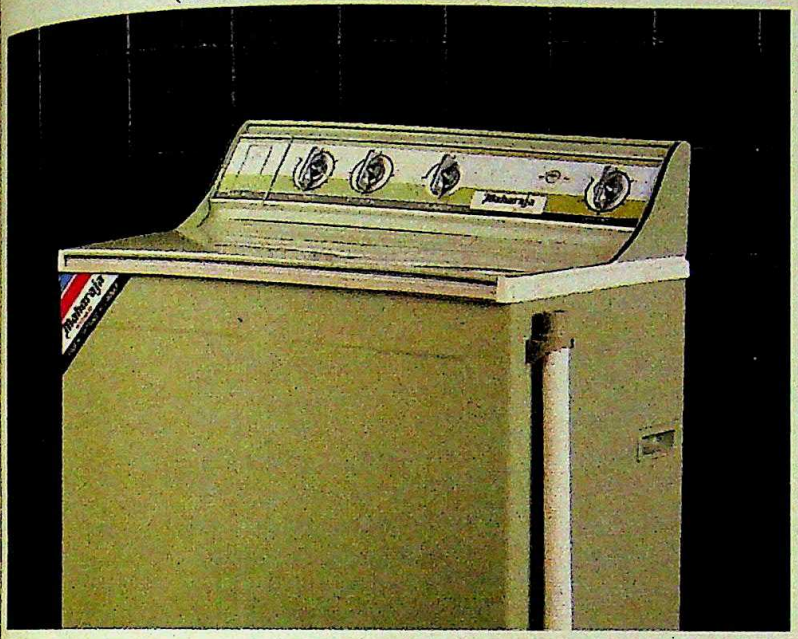
West Germany — B.U. ABELS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Maharaja solution to finding the perfect washing machine

(And five more ways to clean up all your housework)



Whatever the house chore, there's a Maharaja for it. And no matter how big your workload is, Maharaja handles it better.

Washing curtains without tears

The Maharaja Washaid. A powerhouse motor that can run 3 hours non-stop and clean anything from lace to curtains. Choice of wash, rinse and drying timings and actions. **Special buzz alarm.** Unique inclined impeller for maximum cleaning. Double water inlets. **And castors.** All in a rugged, scratchproof steel body.

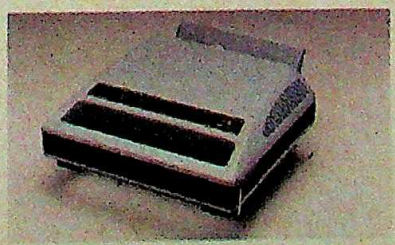
Not a wrinkle in sight

The Maharaja Auto Iron. Instant heating facility. 3 variable temperatures. Super-efficient spray attachment. Shockproof body.

How to suck up dirt you didn't even know was there

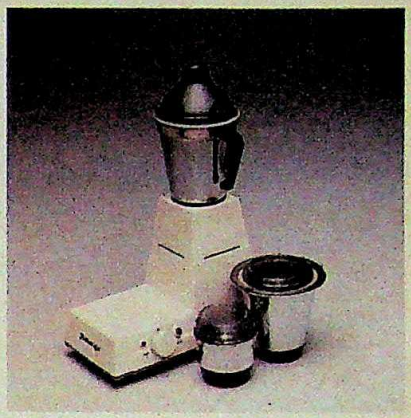
The Maharaja Vacuum Cleaner. 30% more sucking power. Eight litre storage capacity. Impact resistant ABS body on wheels.

Instant designer sandwiches



The supreme Sandwich Toaster. Futuristic design. Thermostatic auto cut-off.

The five-course meal made easy



The Maharaja Mixer-Grinder. Heavy duty motor. An incredible 60 minutes non-stop running time. **Three jars.** Unbreakable casing. Indestructible motor coupling.

The health wave starts here

The Maharaja Juicer Blender. A super-tough, super-fast motor and a handy self-cleaner.

Maharaja home products are designed with your needs in mind, to world standards. And we know, as you do, that its the little details that make a big difference. So the next time you're looking for a home appliance, pick one from the Maharaja range shown here. We guarantee it will be the beginning of a lifetime relationship.

For further enquiries :
Maharaja International Ltd. Post Box No. 2866
New Delhi. 110060

Maharaja
WHITELINE
APPLIANCES

They'll go through anything to keep you happy.

Anthem/MIL/796/2A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

The seeds of a global market without national boundari

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

For more details, contact : BOMBAY : 314 D.N. Road, Fort, Bombay 400 001. Tel: 2045621 ● CALCUTTA : Hongkong House, 31 BBD Bagh, Dalhousie Square, Calcutta
Tel: 286797 ● NEW DELHI : 4/F BMC House, N. Block, Connaught Circus, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: 3312068 ● MADRAS : 30 Rajaji Salai, Madras 600 001. Tel: 5140

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ve already been sown...

Are you equipped to reap the harvest?

Foreign collaborations. Overseas joint ventures. Cross border leasing. Liberalisation policies. The world seems to be shrinking at a scorching pace. The industrial wheel thunders ahead. Flattening national borders, rigid policies, strict regulations... Hitch a lift. Or get left behind!

But you belong to the new breed of fiercely competitive entrepreneurs. Bold, perceptive, dynamic. You need a bank that shares your global perspective – HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division.

We're part of the HongkongBank group – one of the largest banking groups in the world. With 1,300 offices in 50 countries, linked by a global communications system. For fast decisions. Worldwide.

We're totally at home in the Indian market too. With 21 offices in major cities. Plus full-fledged Merchant Banking branches at Bombay, Calcutta, New Delhi and Madras. Capital markets, government policies, domestic joint ventures, corporate counselling, leasing, feasibility studies. We're adept at them all, and much more.

Indeed, if you're willing to harvest a world of opportunities, call HongkongBank's Merchant Banking Division. The bank with local insight and global outlook.

HongkongBank

Merchant Banking Division

Joint Ventures • Foreign Collaborations
Mergers, Acquisitions, Take Overs • Feasibility Studies
Funds from Capital Markets • Leasing • Export Finance
Swaps and Options • Trade Financing
Euro Currency Facilities • Corporate Counselling

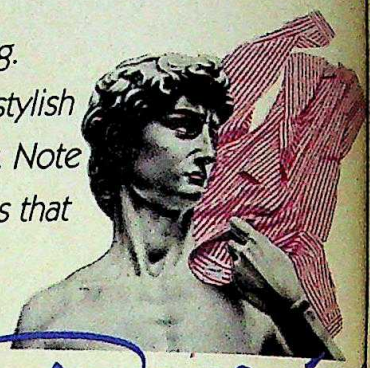
For businessmen on the move.

RASA:3000:90:2

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MAYUR® Suitings introduces Pavonie. Ready to wear with Italian style.



Observe the styling. No flash. Instead, stylish conservatism. Clothes fashioned to define your personality. Quietly. Note the detailing. Split yokes. Gauntlet buttons. Bar-tacking. Fine touches that make a distinct difference. Consider the options. Shirts with buttoned-down collars or wing tips. Classic stripes. Sober plains. Casual checks. Trousers with formal lines. Or baggies with pleats. And finally, take in the fabrics. Fine polyester blends and pure cottons. Add it all up, and you've got ready to wear that'll evoke a singular response from an Italian signore. Magnifico.

Pavonie
FOR MEN
Ready to Wear
SHIRTS ■ TROUSERS

For trade enquiries, contact : Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills Ltd., Kharigram, P.O. Gulabpura-311 021.

A premium product from the makers of MAYUR Suitings and Shirting

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Mudra:A-RSW-2

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Strategic Initiative

FOR several years, farsighted individuals in the Government have been recommending formation of a crack multi-disciplinary group capable of taking a long-term view of national security problems. But even in a land of horoscopes and astrology, perspective planning and deep-penetration future-thought fall victim to the paralysis of fatalism. And so, too, it has been with the concept of a National Security Council. It sounded nice, it sounded like a notion whose time had come, but its time never really came. Until Kashmir exploded.

And now, it looks as if the country will have its first National Security Council. And if it takes shape according to the national and international imperatives that compel its founding, the nation will stand to benefit immensely. The current structure of the Government is too compartmentalised and ministerially vested to allow for the emergence of any clear perspective on what is the vital national interest on which to base a coordinated long-term plan of action.

The Cabinet is too unwieldy a structure. And except in times of war, there is little or no coordination of projected defence, home, foreign affairs, and finance needs of the country. In fact, there are no such projections, and in their absence, the meetings of the Joint Intelligence Committee are more or less unfocussed and without a common agenda. Its functions, therefore, remain limited. Information is generated and shared but it is often conflicting and lacking in interpretation. This is natural in the absence of a national security policy and of an organised structure into which this information can be fed.

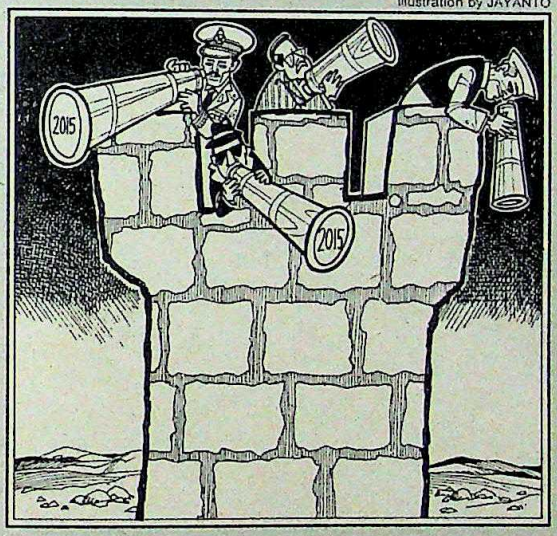
The national debate on security matters is at an abysmal level. Politicians and intellectuals argue glibly about "sealing the border" without the slightest awareness of the logistics involved. And even at a tactical level, in relatively uncomplicated areas as building canals and bridges, there is no integrated planning taking into account defence perspectives. The three services find themselves trying to outdo each other in weapons purchases.

And more important, there is no informed consensus on just what percentage of the national resource should be spent on defence spending. Foreign policy and defence spending are inextricably interwoven, or should be. In 1988-89, while India pursued an interventionist foreign policy, defence spending dipped even as conventional wisdom dictated that defence expenditures should rise during the course of such activism.

There is simply no national security planning. The mission, as it were, doesn't exist. Small wonder then, that given no tidy national objective, the Research and Analysis Wing, Military Intelligence, and the Intelligence Bureau often appear to work at cross purposes, collecting intelligence for the sake of intelligence gathering rather than as part of a clearly defined national security goal. Take for example Operation Topac, the much-publicised Pakistani "low level wargame".

EVEN if Topac was a theoretical Indian wargame, meticulously designed and propagated by certain Indian strategic thinkers outside the establishment to test the response of South Block to a situation of striking similarity on the ground, it served its purpose by exposing the Government's confusion. How should it handle this multi-pronged threat? Use military force? Hit cross-border training camps? Increase internal repression? Adopt a tough posture in the UN? Re-examine the nuclear option? Lobby directly with US members of Congress? Upgrade military capability?

Illustration by JAYANTO



The country's responses demonstrate it is bereft of clear thinking in this area. The right reaction must be based on comprehensive military, scientific, logistical, financial, diplomatic analyses. But there is no single body for receiving well-calibrated and multifaceted inputs and capable of spelling out, coldly and without bias, for the political leadership, the analytical choices available.

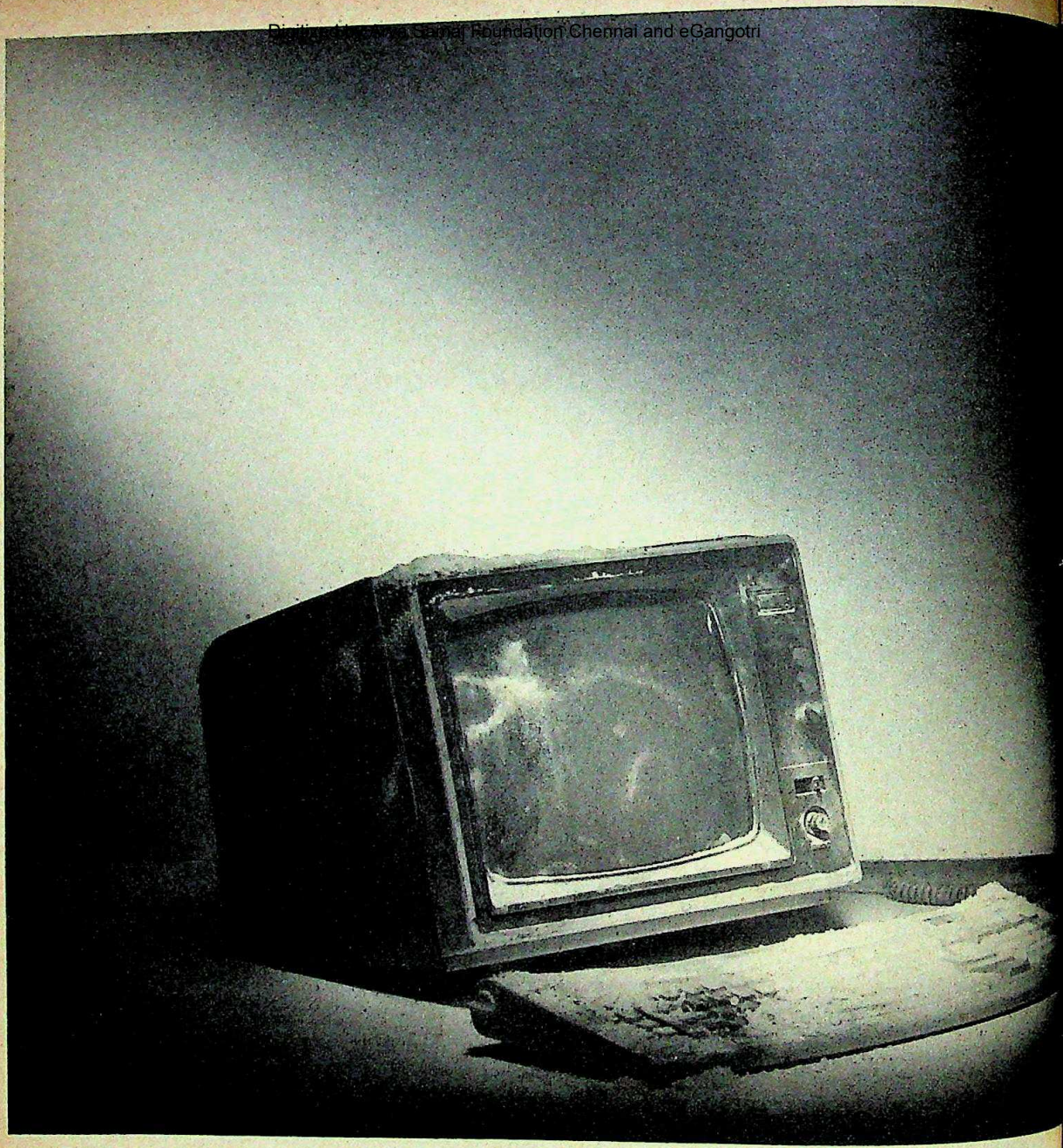
This is the vacuum that the National Security Council ought to fill. Obviously, it cannot be allowed to become a non-responsive bureaucratic overlayer. An Indian CIA out of control. The best option would be a cohesive committee, culled from the Cabinet, that would form the political superstructure of the council. Reporting to it on a regular basis would be a substructure of professionals headed by a senior civil servant, but not necessarily composed entirely of career bureaucrats. More important would be the demonstrated calibre of its men and women representing disparate disciplines. This cell would be the think-tank—a sort of Planning Commission—for national security, providing its political committee the necessary analysis and choices.

But most of all, it will have to look ahead. To quote former general, K. Sundarji: "First thing you are going to decide is what is the national aim. What is India in your view likely to be or you want it to be, we'll say, in 2015? Is it going to be outward looking? Is it going to have the intentions of playing a role in the region or a role in the world? Or is it going to be inward looking, isolated, looking at its own backyard. These are fundamental questions. You've got to make up your damn mind as to what you want to do, right?"

Right.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



A lot of office fires start around sensitive electronic equipment like computers, the EPABX, fax and photocopying machines.

In such a situation, using a conventional fire extinguisher could probably cause as much damage as the fire itself.

Most conventional extinguishers, when used, leave thick chemical deposits that clog and corrode the circuitry of expensive electronic equipment. Unless these deposits are cleaned quickly and meticulously, your equipment is a total write-off.

So why not consider switching to an extinguisher that's more user-friendly. Like Ceasefire. The compact, powerful extinguisher that doesn't damage your sensitive electronic equipment.

Ceasefire has several other features which make it the ideal extinguisher for ordinary people to use in a real-life situation :

Ceasefire is not available at any retail outlet. Contact the Ceasefire Distributor in your locality for a demonstration. Otherwise, write or call us.
***HEAD OFFICE:** Direct Marketing Pvt. Ltd., 801/2 Tulsiani Chambers, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021. Tel: 241939/232898.*

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

THE FIRE DIDN'T DAMAGE THIS COMPUTER. THE FIRE EXTINGUISHER DID.

► Ceasefire is easy to use : just aim at the base of the fire and press the nozzle. ► It contains Halon 1211, the world's most powerful fire fighting agent. ► It needs no refilling or servicing. ► It's so versatile, it's effective against all classes of fire. ► It has twice the throw of most fire extinguishers. ► And Ceasefire costs just Rs. 360, one-third the cost of a conventional fire extinguisher.

A FISTFUL OF SHEER POWER.

Trikaya Grey DM 8.90

REGIONAL OFFICES: Calcutta: Tel: 463965. New Delhi: Tel: 5722230, 5730524. Madras: Tel: 612260. BRANCH OFFICES: Chandigarh: Tel: 20152. Kanpur: Tel: 61813. Pune: Tel: 31302. Ahmedabad: Tel: C/o: 79417. Indore: Tel: 36691. Bangalore: Tel: 564513. Cochin: Tel: 353520. Hyderabad: Tel: 251532.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Surrogate MPs

● One of Parliament's best kept open secrets is now beginning to trickle out. The story has been doing the round of journalistic circuits over the past few weeks.

However, those in the know preferred to keep it to themselves for fear of causing some minor diplomatic embarrassment with Japan so shortly after Premier Kaifu's visit to this country.

Kaifu's address to the joint session of Parliament was nearly a disaster because of the massive no-show by MPs. About 100 members of the Lok Sabha—including six cabinet ministers—were absent.

Caught in a tight spot, the Government took an unusual step to deal with the situation. It was so ashamed at the sight of empty chairs—particularly those in the treasury benches—that it asked the clerical staff of Parliament House to play surrogate.

And so, the inner well of Parliament positively bustled. The few journalists covering the event went pop-eyed at the sight of the new faces in the well—many of them belonging to Parliament reporters (who write the proceedings).

Perhaps there's comfort in that to the untrained Japanese eye, all Indians look alike.

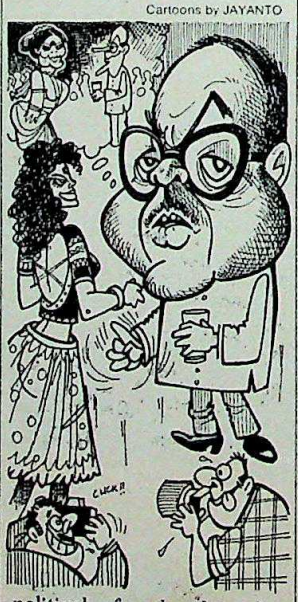
Swank Singh

● V.P. Singh's dour-faced image is strictly for Doordarshan, and not for the birds. He recently made a rare appearance at a high-glitz reception where a fetching Delhi socialite—in a chic *lehnga* and a backless *choli* supported by two strings tied across her back—engaged him in light conversation.

A press photographer, who had sneaked in, and was trying to shoot from the proper angle, preferably with the lady's back to the camera, caught Singh's eye.

Singh, it turns out, actually has a sense of humour. He remarked: "Relax, Mr photographer. Neither am I Rajiv Gandhi, nor she Uma Gajapati Raju," referring to a regular member of Rajiv's

Cartoons by JAYANTO



political female brigade. Click? No, touche.

Home Battles

● Rajiv Gandhi's southern strategy isn't just hinged on the number of MPs from the other side of the Vindhayas who form a solid block of support for him in Parliament

and the All-India Congress(I) Committee. Southernites are also now being given important posts in the party's frontal organisations.

Ramesh Chennithala, a Kerala youth leader, has become the first person from that state to be appointed Youth Congress(I) president. And he's promised to come out fighting. But the worry is that most of his battles may be within his own party. Previous incumbents—Anand Sharma, Gurudas Kamat, Mukul Wasnik—have fallen in rapid succession.

Chennithala, a veteran of political wars against the Marxists, remains unperturbed. He loves a political fight. But Youth Congress(I) veterans point out that fighting politicians is quite different from taking on scorpions. Ask Anand Sharma.

Point of Order

● Rajya Sabha Deputy Chairperson Najma Heptulla is no pushover, especially for bellicose members of her own party—Congress(I)—when it comes to upholding the decorum of the House. In fact, she is a fearless disciplinarian. Consider, for example, excerpts of a recent debate on communalism:

S.S. Ahluwalia: No, no madam, this is not the way...

Heptulla: Please take your seat...We have had enough discussions on this.

A.H. Khan: Point of order...

Heptulla: There is no point of order.

Ahluwalia: Madam...

Heptulla: Don't think you have a loud voice and you can hold the House to

ransom. Take your seat....

Khan: A point of order, madam...(interruptions)

Heptulla: Sit down. I say, sit down. Take your seat. Behave properly. Sit down. Everybody gets up like this. What's this nonsense?

And on and on it went, with the deputy chairperson finally restoring order by threatening to adjourn the House.

TAIL PIECE

(Overheard)

The V.P. Singh Government has broken all records in filing first information reports (FIRs) in corruption cases. Mrs Gandhi had a "government that works". Rajiv's "worked faster". And Singh's works FIR-ster. Its slogan? FIR-st things FIR-st.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ite differ-
n scorpi-
harma.

rder

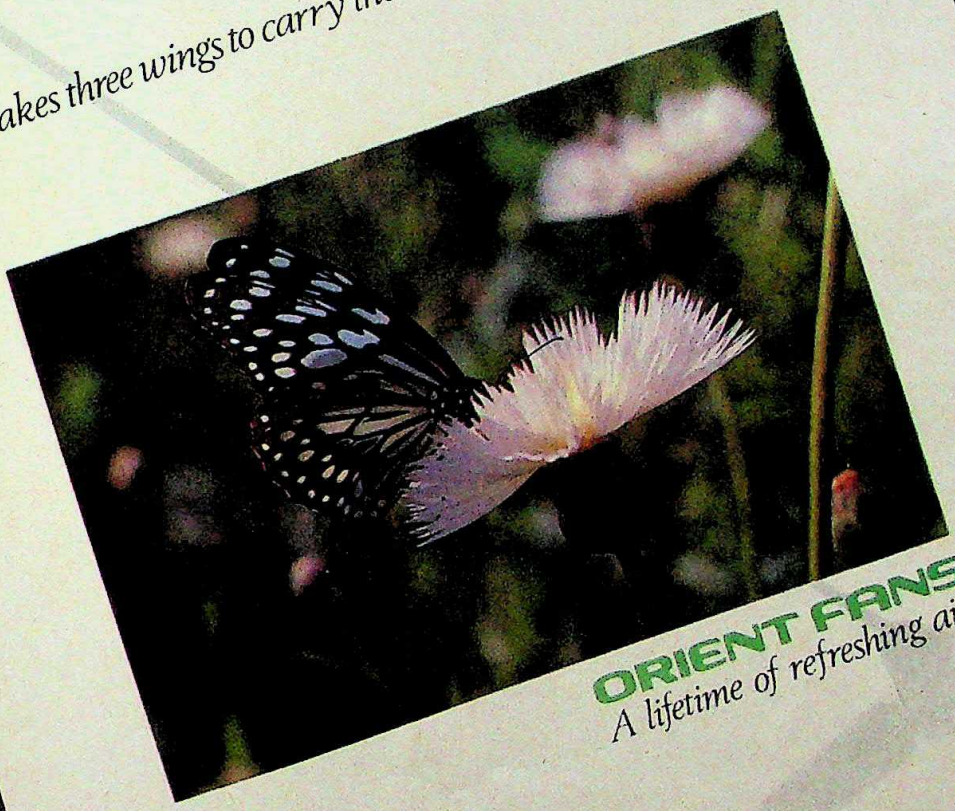
Deputy
a Heptul-
especially
ers of her
gress(I)—
pholding
House. In
s discipli-
or exam-
ecent de-
ism:
: No, no
he way...
se take
ave had
s on this.
Point of

e is no

dam...
't think
oice and
House to

seat....
of order,
ions)
down. I
your seat.
Sit down.
like this.
nse?
it went.
airperson
order by
ourn the

It takes three wings to carry the outdoors to the indoors.



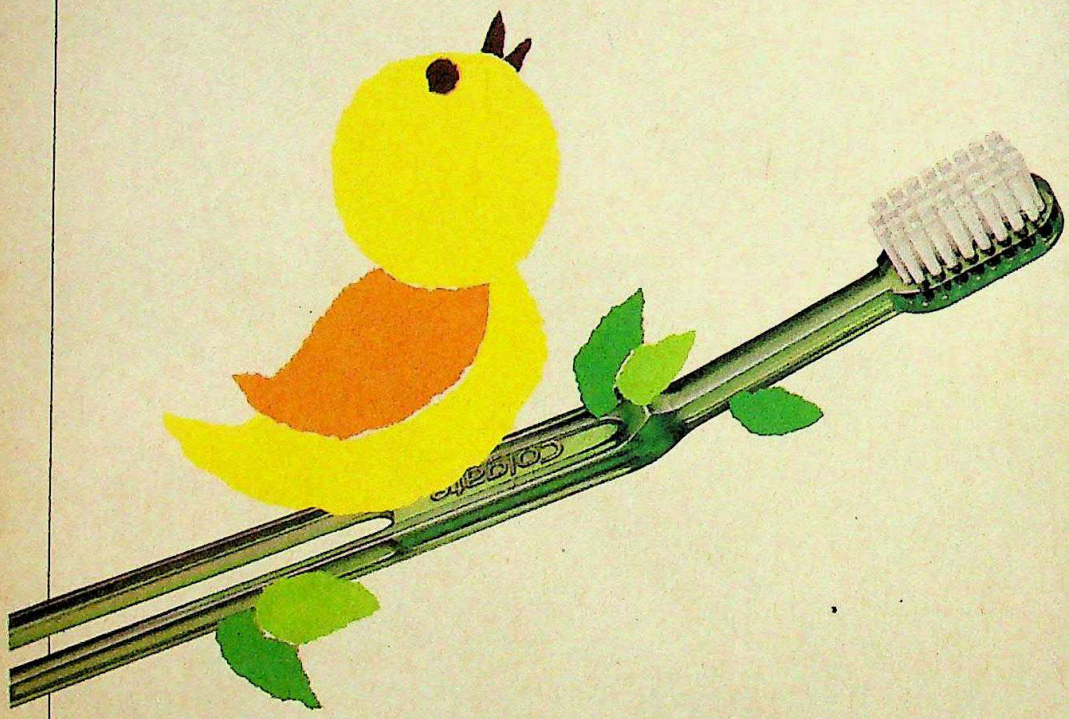
ORIENT FANS
A lifetime of refreshing air.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ASP-D/OG1/11/90 ENG

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Good Morning India!



NEW Colgate FORWARD ANGLE
With compact head for better reach

Smile! You've got the Colgate Forward Angle on your side! A unique compact head for mobility, an angled neck for better reach and firm yet soft bristles make Forward Angle a real pleasure to brush with!

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Rediffusion/CP/90/171

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

GUIDING ACROSS THE BLUE SKIES

WE MAKE FLYING POSSIBLE...
providing air traffic control & radio navigational facilities
all airports and throughout the Indian air space.

सुरक्षा सहित सेवा
राष्ट्रीय विमानपत्तन प्राधिकरण
NATIONAL AIRPORTS AUTHORITY

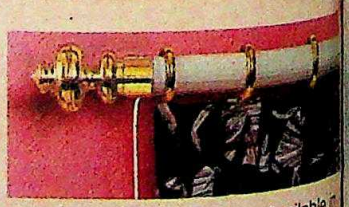
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WINDOW FASHION 90'S

Versatile Verticals

Other Window Fashion Ideas:
Vista Levolor Venetian Blinds: Simple to use. Available in over 85 dramatic colours.



Vista Levolor Drapery Rods: Available in 20 colours to make 200 combinations.

Here it is.

Vista Levolor, the 90's window fashion.

Vista Levolor accents your windows and shows them at their best. With the latest trends, largest choice and imported mechanisms.

Vista Levolor Vertical Blinds provide desired privacy, and complete control of sunlight. Available in a wide choice of colours and textures. Easy-to-care-for louvres range from 2" to 5" width.

Vista LEVOLOR

New Ideas in Window Fashion

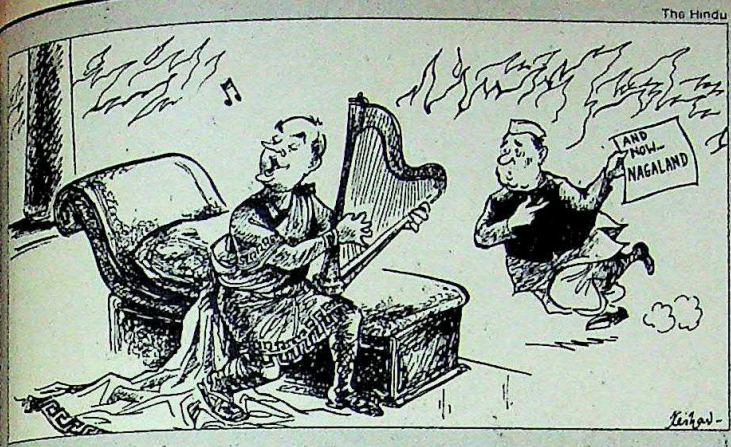
*We'll come across to install your window dressing anytime day or night. Just call us. In the meantime, write to us for a free booklet on **Window Fashion-90's**.*

A product by **Alps Textiles Pvt. Ltd. H.O.:** B/4, D-3, Shopping-Cum-Facility Centre, Alaknanda, N. Delhi-19. Ph: 6412576, 6413216. Fax: 8732627. Telex: 0592-217. **Bombay Off.:** 29-30, Vaswani Bhavan, Dinsha Wacha Road, Bombay-20. Ph: 221764, 221697.

Dealers Phone Nos.: Agra: Suman Arts-62973 pp. **Ahmedabad:** Windoor Mktg-442180. **Bangalore:** Featherlite Collection-234009, Girdhar Baldev & Co.-211343, 215609. **Bombay:** Modele Collection-5114500. **Calcutta:** Odd Jobs-446404, 444216. **Calicut:** Galaxy Business Systems-64100, 52600. **Chandigarh:** Comfit Mktg-43303. **Cochin:** Skyline Systems-369827. **Coimbatore:** Electro Diesel-43595. **Dehradun:** Abhinandan Interiors-[illegible] Floor & Furnishing-5738138, Jagdish Store-6843206, Puneet Enterprises-675598. **Ghaziabad:** Classic Decor-8711258. **Gwalior:** [illegible] Home Decor-35933. **Jaipur:** Interior India-49646. **Jamshedpur:** Fo[illegible] Decor-428199, 428250. **Mangalore:** Teekays Mktg-26564. **Mysore:** Darla Sales-31473. **Nagpur:** Nagpur Aluminium-46913. **Pune:** Super Decor-446019, 444573. **Rajkot:** Aavaran-44856. **Secunderabad:** Home Decor-[illegible]

DEALERS ENQUIRIES [illegible]

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



• *In a democratic party, opinions should clash.* ■ V.P. SINGH

• *V.P. Singh wears a very holy mask. But behind that mask is a pair of roving eyes.* ■ M.J. AKBAR, referring to the fall of the Congress(I) ministry in Nagaland, in *The Telegraph*

• *I have not been to the Kashmir valley for about a month because the governor has either directly or through the home minister conveyed the message that I am not welcome in the state.* ■ GEORGE FERNANDES, minister for Kashmir affairs, in *Sunday*

• *Any foreign minister worth his salt should avoid war.* ■ I.K. GUJRAL

• *I haven't worn a bullet-proof vest for four years.* ■ RAJIV GANDHI

• *When 42 people are included in the FIR to say that there was a conspiracy (to kill Sanjay Singh), it is unbelievable because if 42 people meet to conspire anything it will become a public meeting, not a conspiracy.* ■ HARIKESH BAHADUR, Congress(I) MP

• *When I sleep, even if it is 2 a.m., I put my walkman around my neck and try to listen to classical music.* ■ MADHU DANDAVATE in *Society*

• *Maneka is unlikely to be remembered for being among the youngest ministers ever but might make an impact if she protects a mangrove or two.* ■ MANEKA GANDHI

• *When I can't explain to my post-graduate wife what parliamentary affairs means, how can I expect the folks back home to comprehend?* ■ JAGDEEP DHANKAR, deputy minister for parliamentary affairs

• *I don't seem to be very popular with the people in television. Otherwise, in a list of 1,300 approved producers and directors, how come my name hasn't found a place?* ■ MANOHAR SHYAM JOSHI, writer of TV serial *Hum Log*, in *The Times of India*

• *If you are seen to get too friendly with an Indian, it is almost as if you have betrayed Pakistan and vice-versa.* ■ IMRAN KHAN

• *For the tour of England, it looks like the selectors are going back to the '70s. Players are dropped or picked without much thinking going into the case.* ■ K. SRIKKANTH in *Sportsworld*

• *I've met Mukesh (Agarwal) only nine times after marriage. But it's been exciting that way.* ■ REKHA in *Filmfare*

Newsweek
THE INTERNATIONAL NEWSMAGAZINE

Now

Keep track of events in a fast-changing world. Week after week. Now's the time to get a Newsweek subscription. At just Rs. 15 a copy!

Copies hand delivered in Bombay, Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Hyderabad, Pune and Ahmedabad.

Your special rates (tick one) :
51 weeks – Rs. 765/-
102 weeks – Rs. 1530/-
153 weeks – Rs 2295/-

SAVE 25% OFF THE NEWS STAND PRICE

Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____

Enclosed is my cheque*/DD* for:
Rs..... in favour of
LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD.
Mail coupon to :
LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD.
NEWSWEEK INTERNATIONAL
201, Competent House,
F-14, Connaught Place,
New Delhi-110 001.

*Cheques/Demand Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cartoons by JAYANTO

APING THE EPIC

■ Years ago, Hastinapur was witness to a historic battle—the Mahabharat. Recently, the conch was blown again and the epic battle was re-enacted for the small screen. But what went unnoticed was another skirmish in the town.

The problem started when a piece of land was divided into two sections named Pandavan and Kauravan. Curiously, each area has its own group of monkeys who tend to be very protective and possessive about their territory.

So, when a monkey from one area dared to venture across, protective simians on the other side were up in arms. Crying war the two groups pelted each other with sticks and stones, showing that they are not monkeying around.

While it seems that the contestants are aping the original Mahabharat it is to be seen whether, like in the epic, this continuing battle too will be won by the Pandavas.

EXAM BOMB

■ The students of Delhi University's Kirorimal College recently raised an alarm about a bomb in the examination hall.

The entire drama began when some students who were scribbling away furiously spotted a transistor-like object tucked away in a corner of the window sill. Mistaking it for a bomb, they immediately pressed the panic button. While the invigilators were the first to flee the scene, they were soon followed by panic-stricken students. The arrival of the police only ended up confounding the confusion. However, in the midst of all this a couple of students still kept writing away at a frenetic pace not bothered by the fear of a blast.

The fact is that realising that the alarm was a hoax they took full advantage of the absence of invigilators and indulged in some quick copying till the situation was defused. Hopefully they will not bomb in their examinations.

ZEALOUS CABBIE

■ New Delhi's taxi-drivers are no longer following tried and tested routes. In fact, they are leaving the narrow and congested roads of the capital for greener pastures. Take for example, a disgruntled and rather ambitious cab-driver who decided to impersonate a policeman by wielding the *danda*.

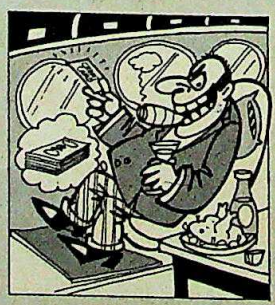
In his new avatar as a policeman he also decided that he was the keeper of the nation's morals. So, in a burst of over-enthusiastic zeal he 'arrested' a couple enjoying a quiet moment of togetherness in the romantic lush green environs of Lodi Gardens. The reason offered by the 'protector' of the people: the couple was loitering in a VIP area.

Unfortunately for him a real policeman patrolling the area happened to walk by the same time and arrested the driver. The policeman told him that if drivers don't stick to their place behind the wheel they will be behind bars.

TRUMP CARD

■ If you can't join them, beat them was the adage followed by a certain enterprising individual in Kansur, Karnataka recently. Driven up the wall by the legalities required for a bank loan he hit upon a novel solution: apply for a credit card.

Although the card was acquired for just Rs 300 from a bank, this person proceeded to run up a bill many times that sum. Not only did he make a cash withdrawal of Rs 3,000 (the maximum limit allowed per month) but also went around buying and charging things to the credit card. For instance, he purchased an Indian Airlines ticket against the card and even stayed in a five-star hotel.



With his credit card he also bought himself time and postponed the payment of his bills for two months. A simple case of living on borrowed time.

PUPPY LOVE

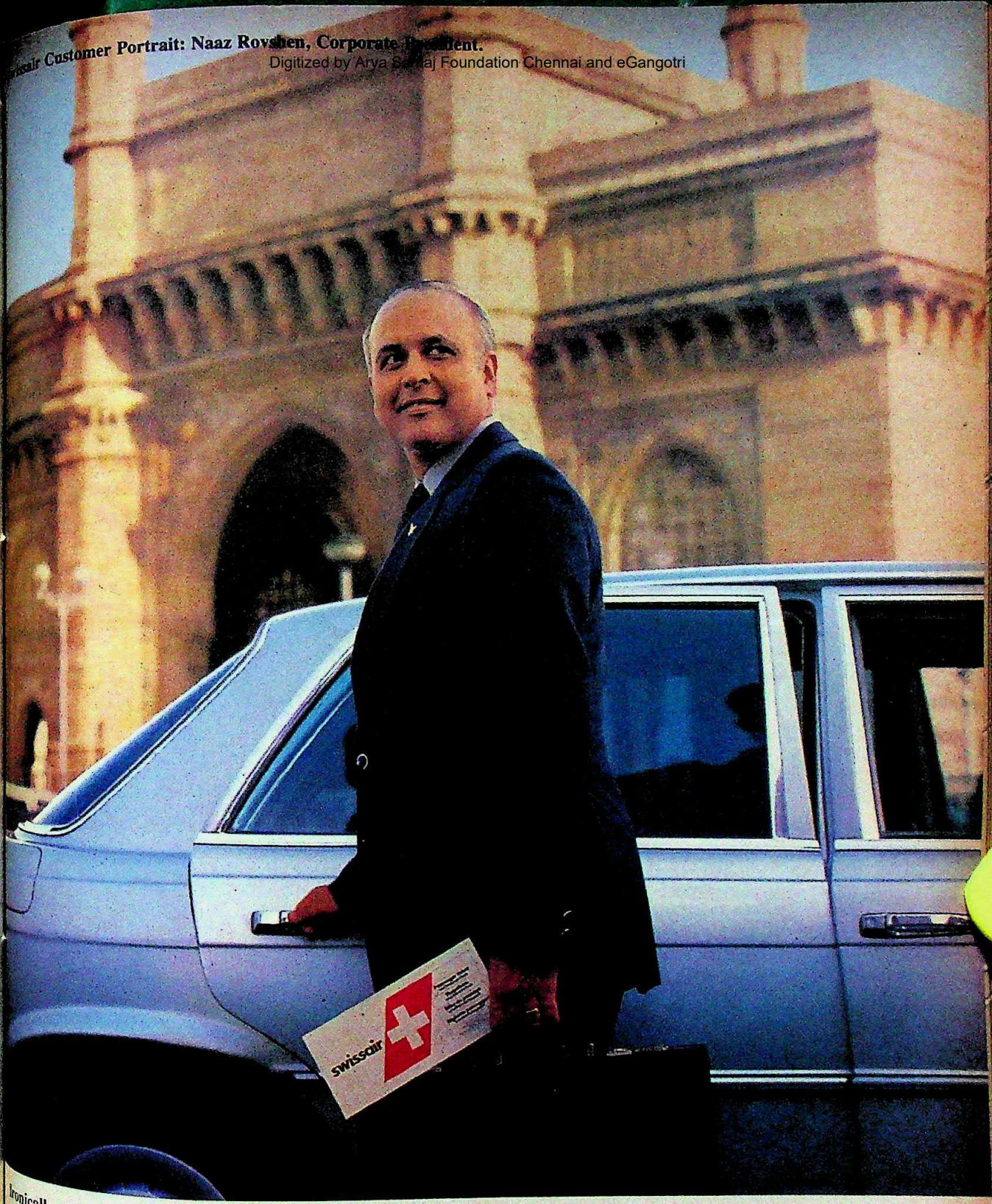
■ It takes a lot of effort to make a perfect marriage. For one, the stars of the prospective bride and bridegroom have to be matched before a marriage can be arranged. So, when it was discovered that Rahu and Ketu were definitely on the side of this loving couple—Timmy and Rocky—a traditional wedding with all the tinsel trappings was immediately organised.

Now, what's so unusual about that? Nothing, except that Timmy and Rocky are two snow white pomeranians. Apparently, the wedding was the idea of a palmist who noticed that the lines on the paws of the two canines were in harmony. It was not just that they were always wagging their tails at each other.

While things may have been neatly wrapped up for the moment, it still remains to be seen whether dogs can have their day, for ever.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Swissair Customer Portrait: Naaz Rovshen, Corporate President.
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Ironically, Naaz Rovshen leaves one Gateway, only to be welcomed to Swissair's European Gateway. Zurich, of course, Naaz's gateway to business in Europe. Where Swissair flies to more than fifty destinations. Nine in Germany, six in France, six in Italy and three in the U.K. With this Swissair daily feature, you also enjoy Swiss hospitality and punctuality. All of which will have you agreeing with Naaz that Swissair's European Gateway, brings that same feeling of warmth as experienced upon sighting the Gateway of India.

For details call your IATA travel agent or the nearest Swissair office:
AHMEDABAD 449149 • BANGALORE 211983 • BOMBAY 2872210 • CALCUTTA 444643 • COCHIN 360380 • DELHI 3325511 • HYDERABAD 211144 • KATHMANDU 222452 • MADRAS 861583

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

everest/90/SW/32 R

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

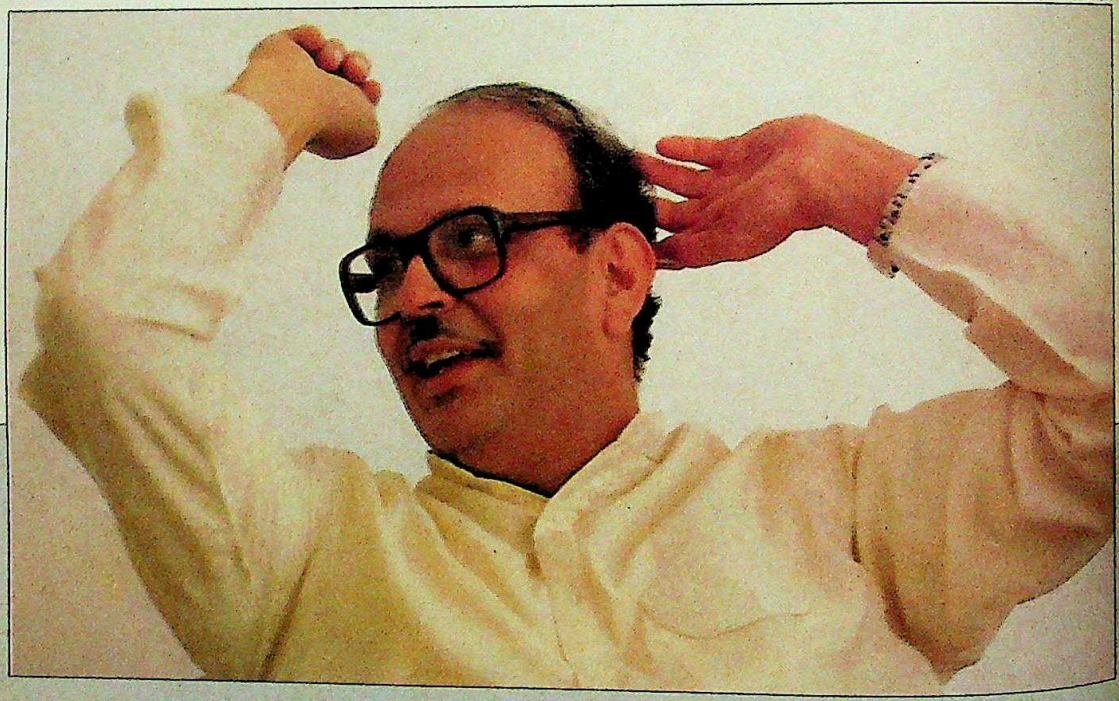
V.P. SINGH A NEW ASSERTIVENESS

THE real Raja, at last, had begun not only to stand up but also to stand out. A ruthless tactician, a man capable of rolling endlessly with the punches, a ready compromiser if the calculated result would even remotely benefit his government. But most of all, a man who knows how to play with men.

The omissions and commissions of six months—for that's how old his government now is—cannot be sorted out in the span of a fortnight. But some horoscopic logic seemed to force Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh to confront, and act on a myriad of warfronts—Kashmir, Meham, foreign policy, party organisation, debilitating opposition attacks—within two weeks.

Last fortnight revealed rapid movement. In humbling Devi Lal—even if it only counted for a technical knockout—Singh showed that he was quite capable of taking a swipe at one of the pillars of his own power base, and still surviving. In sacking governor Jagmohan he showed that he could smite hard at a man associated with the

BHAWAN SINGH



INTERVIEW

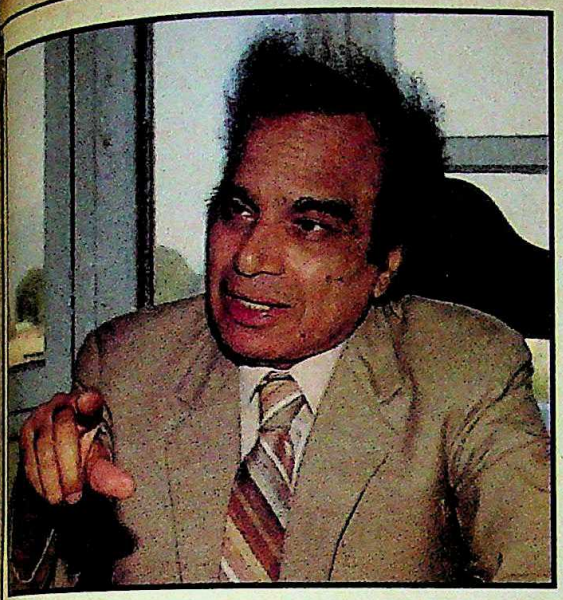
"THERE IS ABSOLUTELY NO PRESSURE ON ME"

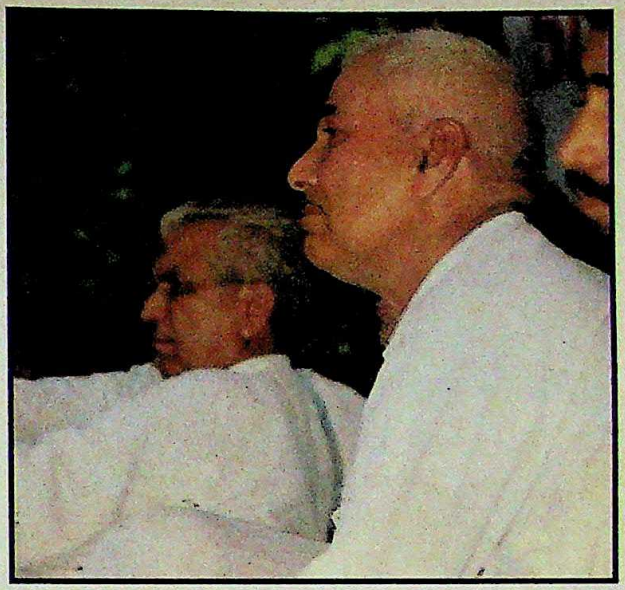
AS Vishwanath Pratap Singh walks into the freshly white-washed sitting room at 7 Race Course Road at 8.45 p.m. on the 175th day of his prime ministership, it's difficult to tell that he's made what is perhaps the most controversial decision of his tenure—the sacking of Kashmir Governor Jagmohan—barely minutes earlier.

There's not even a hint of a sense of crisis about him. He is assertive, aggressive, and appears totally in control of himself. He chooses his words carefully, honing the syntax and occasionally breaking into his native eastern Uttar Pradesh dialect to emphasise a point. The most striking thing is his sarcastic humour and the wild laughter that shakes his entire frame. He spoke for three hours to Executive Editor INDERJIT BADHWAR *and Senior Editor* PRABHU CHAWLA *on a wide range of issues. Excerpts:*

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





His handling of Chautala and Kashmir was vintage Singh—a mix of assertiveness and complex compromise

line in Kashmir, that regardless of the correctness of that line, he was not going to be bullied by anybody—even the BJP—on the Kashmir policy.

In what was apparently the most precipitous action he has ever taken, Singh's sacking of Jagmohan showed that he is not only capable of using men and then spitting them out like so many pitted grapes but also that he is a long-distance gambler. It was also a classic example of what Singh calls his "complex response". On the surface of it, it appeared that Singh had succumbed to the cacophonous criticism, internal and international, of the governor's tough line in Kashmir. It had reached a crescendo in the wake of Mirwaiz Farooq's assassination and the killings of civilians that ensued. Barely two days before Jagmohan's ouster, some of Singh's own partymen, led by the evergreen dissenter Chandra Shekhar joined the Congress(I) and the Left, particularly CPI MP Indrajit Gupta in demanding his recall in Parliament..

The immediate effect of Jagmohan's resignation on May 25 was the silencing of the Opposition on the issue and the removal of a stick being used by Chandra Shekhar and his supporters to beat Singh with. As one V.P. Singh aide put it: "On a human level, it was tragic that Jagmohan had to go. But more important than the man was the policy. Singh does have a hard line in Kashmir but was constantly constrained by opposition parties who, while not opposed to the hard line, were opposed to Jagmohan. So it was best to remove the man but continue the policy."

But Singh had other compulsions as

Q. There is an impression that except for political firefighting, you have not achieved much during your first six months in office.

A. There has been a solid achievement. For the first time, there's an alternative to the Congress(I). We had been running a democracy without an alternative, and we had begun to put this concept on a pedestal.

Q. But what's the use of an alternative just for the sake of an alternative?

A. Don't you realise that what we had was a bonded democracy, and no one seemed sorry about it. This is a conscious step forward for democracy, and it is a bigger goal than just government for government's sake.

Q. Has this actually happened?

A. It is in the process of jelling. The process has started where either the Central Government or the prime minister is not going to be equated with the nation. The nation has already paid too heavy a political price for that sort of concept.

Q. Do you then look upon yourself as a conscious reformer?

A. Don't just look at one person. You've got to look at the various forces that have come together—the Left and the BJP—not on one person, but on issues to establish issue-based politics.

Q. So you admit that all you've been doing for the last six months is a balancing job.

A. That's just what you don't understand. I never feel I'm balancing things. There are no pressures or cross-pressures on me. I do what I have to do. None of the supporting parties has been meddling.

Q. What about issues like Punjab? Kashmir? Babri Masjid?

A. Well, there's an exchange of views. But my government has its own stand.

Q. The impression is one of bickering and constant compromise.

A. Look, I don't feel any sort of pressure. There is an agreement on a wide area on which there's smooth sailing. The National Front manifesto is endorsed by both parties. And we're moving ahead in record time on the Lok Pal Bill, autonomy for TV and radio, repealing the 59th Amendment, the Postal Bill, scrapping the Industrial Disputes Act, electoral reforms, the judicial commission for transfer and appointment of judges. Tell me about one government that has worked faster on these issues.

Q. But this is certainly not the ground-level perception.

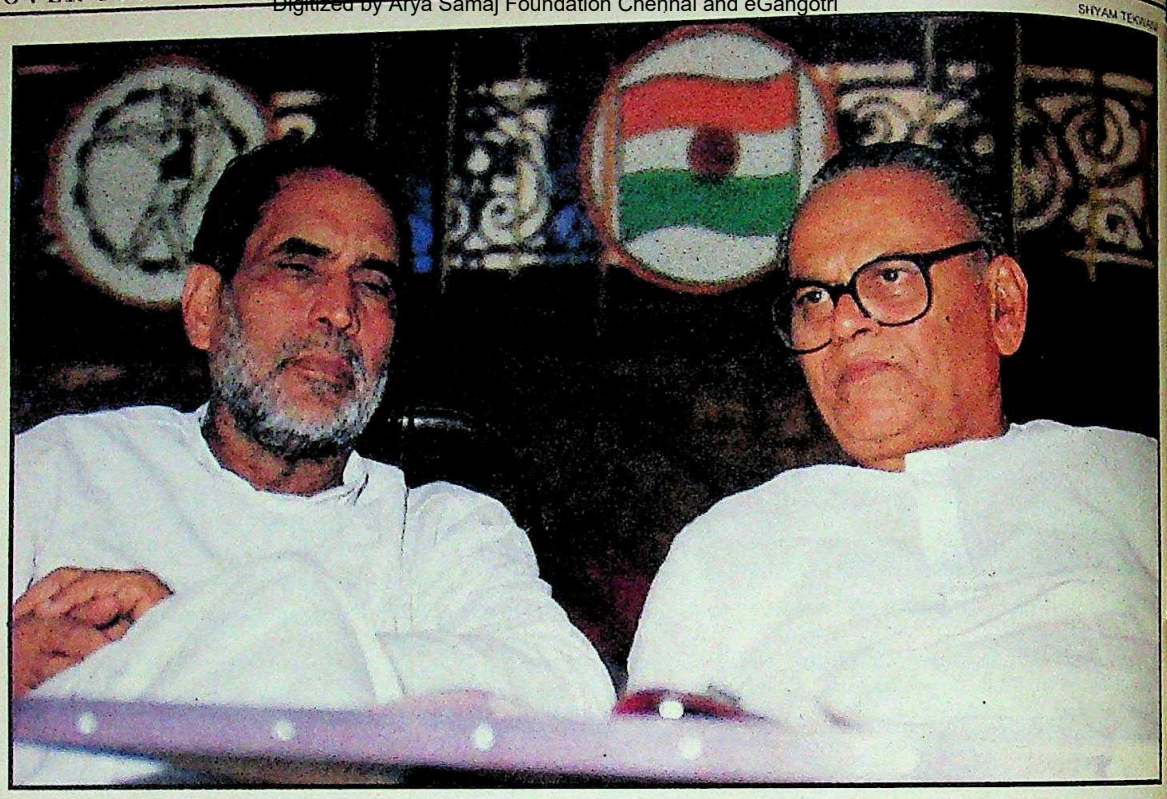
A. Well, then, refute what I'm saying.

Q. Take the major issues—Punjab, Kashmir. Jagmohan and Fernandes were at loggerheads, which was totally ➡

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

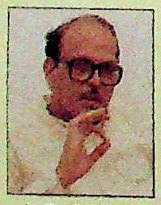
SHYAM TEKWANI



■ In Bommai's election, Singh appeared neutral. But the game was to neutralise the party's factional leaders

well. He was not exactly comfortable with the growing advantage that the BJP had begun to reap out of his Kashmir policy. The BJP had used the Jagmohan appointment to its own advantage and begun to equate his tough line with its own. And up to the point of the Mirwaiz's assassination, the real gains made in the valley by Jagmohan—the arrest of top terrorists, the successful shifting of the capital from Jammu to Srinagar, the reopening of schools and colleges—were being parlayed into political gains by the BJP at the expense of the Janata Dal which seemed to be dithering between the confused signals emanating from Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, and Kashmir

INTERVIEW



V.P. SINGH

confusing the local administration.

A. So what? Do you want people to stop thinking? That was what was so wrong with the Congress(I). It was a sin in that party to express an opinion. This is a psychological cage to which people have become accustomed. They are conditioned to feel that any expression of opinion is a weakness, and this was allowed to become a cult. And that, in my view, is the death-knell of democracy.

Q. *That's all very well, but where are your clearly defined policies, the solutions?*

A. You will never understand me. The people with the so-called clear-cut solutions all these years—where did they lead the country? I do not take clear-cut paths to disaster. See that plant? What's so clear-cut about it? It has curves, and contours and confusion, and yet it grows with strong logic. Look at that window frame. It is clear-cut, and angular, and static. Complex problems demand complex responses. There was nothing going for me in 1987. I spelled out the concept of centrist parties getting together with seat adjustments with the Left and BJP. I was derided, condemned as confused. But it is precisely this concept that is now working out.

Q. *But how's your response any different, say, with Punjab?*

A. My job as prime minister is to solve problems, and not to give tutorials.

Q. *That doesn't answer the question. Whom would you choose in Punjab, Badal or Mann? What's the card? Let's hear your complex solution.*

A. I'd pursue elections. But first we have to create the necessary conditions.

Q. *After you took over, didn't you believe solutions would come in a few weeks?*

A. You people may have thought that, I certainly didn't.

Q. *You appear to be a master of compromise.*

A. Even in the most extreme contradictions, there is always some element of commonality. One should have the political acumen to identify that commonality and work through that to bring in a new political reality, rather than be overwhelmed by the contradiction itself. Contradictions are challenges to one's political sagacity.

Q. *What is your policy on Kashmir?*

A. I'll spell it out. First, the secessionist movement cannot and will not be allowed to succeed. There will be continuous pressure to stop infiltration from both sides. Second, we must be sensitive to the human rights element. Third, we must

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Affairs Minister George Fernandes.

Jagmohan's removal was also calculated to serve two ends. First, V.P. Singh can claim, in response to critics favouring continuing pressure in the valley that he had removed only Jagmohan, not the army of security forces. Second, it would give the separatists breathing room. They could claim a face-saving victory, if not against India, at least against Jagmohan, and having rid themselves of the symbol of Indian ruthlessness, perhaps see the wisdom of negotiating honourably.

In his own scheme of things, V.P. Singh always seems to benefit by a perverse stroke of timing. He lets his problems simmer until he finds the right time to strike. First came the visit of President Bush's envoy, Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates. During the high-level meeting V.P. Singh's line on Kashmir was hard and to the point. It was India's internal affair. But more importantly he managed to put across three important pre-conditions for India's refraining from war: that the US recognise the Simla agreement, oppose the demand for a plebiscite and warn Pakistan against adventurism. In his own way Singh was passing a message to the militants that they could no longer bank on Pakistan's help and would have no recourse but to negotiate.

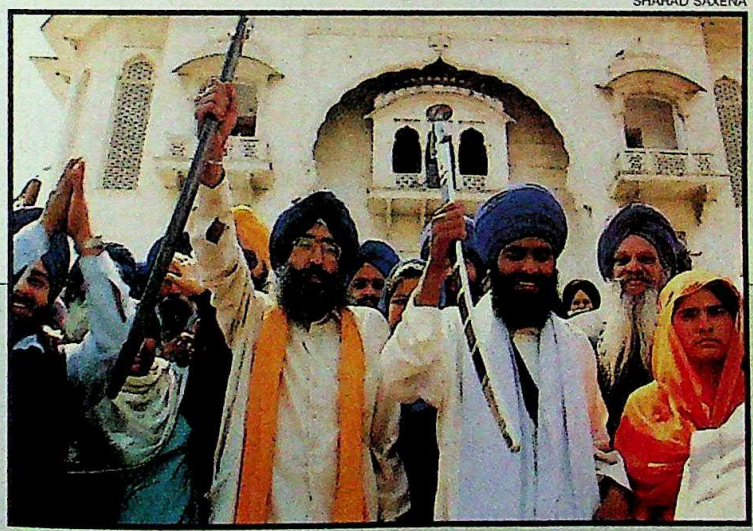
The other stroke of perverse timing was the killing of civilians by securitymen in Srinagar during the Mirwaiz's funeral procession. There was a unanimous national outcry against the killings, and no matter how blameless Jagmohan may have been, the Raja seized the opportunity to strike: the symbol of Indian oppression was removed; the separatists were given the word that the US would not back Pakistan in case of a war; and the internal attacks on Singh's Kashmir policy began to wind down.

MOST revealing of all was the fact that just before he decided to sack Jagmohan, Singh invited, for the first time, his most ardent critic—none other than Chandra Shekhar—to his house for an hour-long meeting, along with Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed. He not only informed Chandra Shekhar of his decision to remove Jagmohan but also invited him to participate in helping resolve the Punjab crisis. Five months ago, in choosing Jagmohan to go to Kashmir as governor—when no one else dared to accept the assignment—Singh had ridden over massive objections raised by Chandra Shekhar. Singh's Machiavellian wheel had come full circle.

In dealing with the challenge posed to him by Devi Lal and his son, Om Prakash Chautala, the substance of Singh's strategy may have been different but the style was the same. Here too, Singh was under attack for dithering, for having reneged on his own concept of value-based politics. Again, he used timing to his advantage, ducking and dodging before ultimately coming out on top by not only getting Chautala to resign over the Meham issue, but also simultaneously de-fanging Devi Lal and pushing the Congress(I) into an uncomfortable corner.

Even in the midst of the national outcry against the election violence in Meham, he had failed miserably in securing Chautala's removal last February. His Political Affairs Committee (PAC) had met then under his presidentship and recommended action. But Biju Patnaik and Sharad Yadav who were asked to convey the decision to Devi Lal simply refused to do so, privately telling others that that was the job of the party president. But Singh abhors direct confrontations. Besides,

SHARAD SAXENA



"IN PUNJAB, I'D LIKE ELECTIONS. BUT WE NEED THE RIGHT CONDITIONS"

keep up our political antennas and develop contacts with the people. Success in any one area helps success in another.

Q. Did the killings of innocents in Srinagar shake your faith in Jagmohan?

A. The administrative lapses that led to that set-back were very real. But we had achieved a great deal prior to that.

Q. Will you meet Benazir Bhutto over the Kashmir issue?

A. I have no objection, but first a congenial atmosphere must be created. There must be some indication of ground reality, of ceasing help to the terrorists. I cannot accept a situation in which the other side shakes hands with us over the table, but kicks our shins from below.

Q. Is there an atmosphere of war?

A. This Government has the sincerest intentions of creating good relations with all its neighbours. We have done so with Sri Lanka, by withdrawing the IPKF, with Nepal. We are removing irritants with Bangladesh, we've had positive exchanges with China. Pakistan has missed a very good chance for enhancing peace in the region.

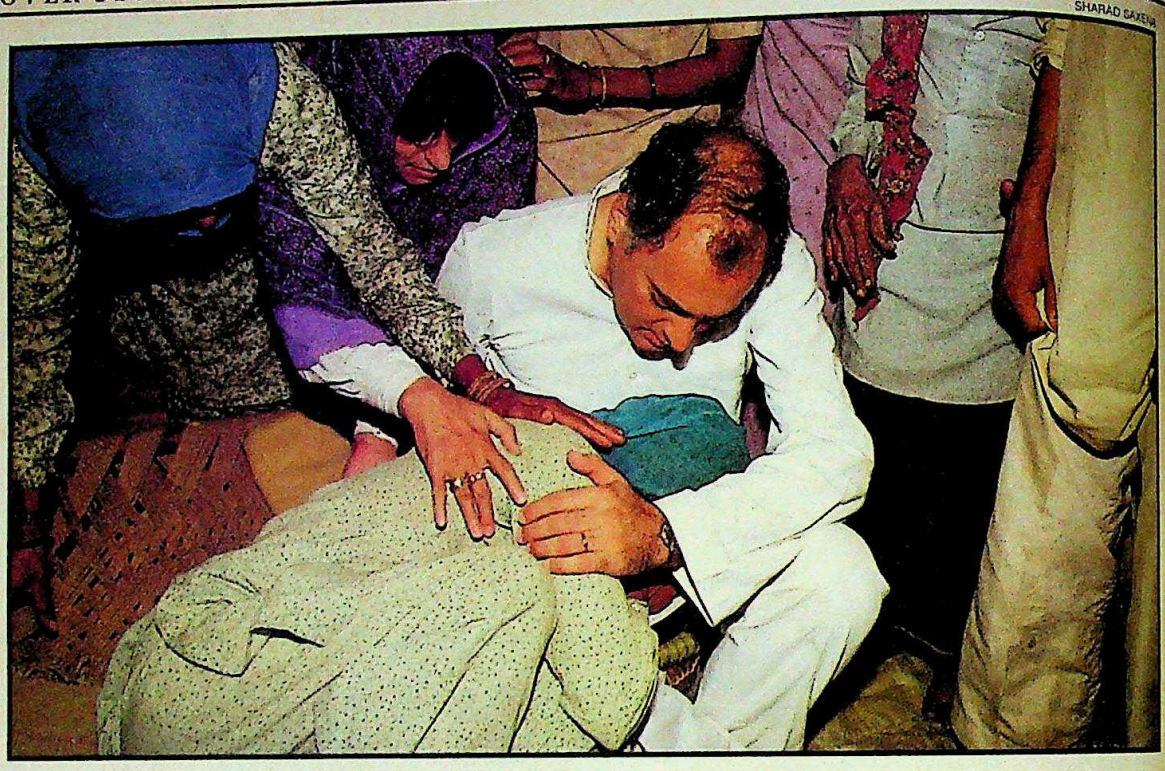
Q. How?

A. The first thing we get is the kidnapping of Rubaiya Sayeed. This is followed by continuous infiltration of weapons, anti-tank mines, AK-47s, sophisticated explosives, rocket launchers. This is the ground language as opposed to the diplomatic language. This is followed by whipping up mass hysteria, an open offer of funds to separatists, cries about a 1,000-year war, inciting people to cross the international border.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SHARAD SAXENA



■ **Singh has made use of crisis situations like Meham to let Rajiv's gimmickry boomerang on him**

he was indebted to Devi Lal who had virtually helped him become prime minister during the leadership struggle after the November 1989 elections. As in the case of Jagmohan he supported him publicly while having made up his mind that he would have to be cut down to size. But he bided his time. The complex-responder was looking for the right configuration of political opportunities to jell and for, as he himself terms it, "the correct infrastructure for action".

When Chautala resigned on May 22, it appeared that Singh had acted under the heat that the Congress(I) was putting on him in and outside Parliament and after Rajiv Gandhi's visit to Meham on May 20 where he'd demanded Singh's resignation at a large meeting. But beneath the surface lay a lava of complications. On the morning of

INTERVIEW

V.P. SINGH

Q. ***What about military manoeuvres?***

A. There has been a forward movement of troops on their side, activisation of their forward airfields. They've put their army on red alert and moved some elements of their strike force and ammunition closer to the border.

Q. ***Is there possibility of war?***

A. We don't want war. We need resources for our development. But we cannot jeopardise our security. Pakistan should understand that if it draws a comparison with China. We have a similar boundary and border disputes with China as we have with Pakistan. Still, the Government has been able to establish effective dialogue with China. What is different is just one element. We do not believe today that China has any ill designs of fanning secessionism and terrorism within our country. But Pakistan has such designs. Its ultimate goal is severance of part of our country.

Q. ***What has been the attitude of the superpowers?***

A. We've told both the USSR and the US that after the Simla Agreement, there was relative stability in Indo-Pakistan relations. What's changed in the last five years is the promotion of secessionism. Today Punjab, tomorrow Jammu & Kashmir, next day somewhere else. This has destabilised the Simla Agreement.

Q. ***You don't see Pakistan relenting?***

A. Good relations are built not by smart arguments, but by acts of good faith. If Pakistan shows just one act of good faith on this issue, I'll go two steps forward. But if they go on aiming at secession and destabilisation, overt or covert, that's the path of confrontation. And one doesn't know where it will end. After all, if someone keeps throwing bricks into your courtyard from outside, you'll have to pick them up and throw them back at some stage.

Q. ***How were your talks with the recent US delegation? Did they offer to mediate?***

A. Mediation is unacceptable to us, and they didn't push it. In fact, they went out of their way to make it clear that they did not come for mediation. I didn't even have to mention it. The Soviets have been our consistent friends. But I must appreciate some of the positions taken by the US. They have respected the Simla Agreement and have not supported plebiscite.

Q. ***Do they accept your version of Pakistan's complicity?***

A. I do believe that the US has exerted pressure on Pakistan to avoid the adventurist and confrontationist path.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

May 22, Singh was in a relaxed mood when he went to visit his south Delhi dentist for a tooth extraction. That very day, the Chautala-sized political toothache too came to an end.

Perhaps he was relaxed because the previous evening, his 10-member PAC, including three chief ministers, Chimanbhai Patel, Lalloo Prasad Yadav and Biju Patnaik, had met late into the night and decided to dismiss Chautala from the party if he didn't resign. They decided that if Devi Lal resigned in protest, they would let him do so and even face a party split.

Actually Singh had forced the issue on the 19th. When asked by reporters about his stand on Meham, he responded that Chautala could only continue as chief minister if he won from Meham. And since the Meham election stood countermanded, Singh was indicating that a Chautala victory from Durba Kalan would mean nothing.

The signal sent partymen huddling. Meanwhile, the Congress(I) was stepping up the heat, not by attacking Devi Lal or Chautala directly (in the hope that a party split would favour them should Devi Lal choose to play his own Congress card *a la* Charan Singh in August 1979), but by attacking V.P. Singh.

The next 48 hours were crucial. First, Singh secured the backing of the BJP and the Left. Armed with this support, he summoned a meeting of the cabinet in which he secured unanimous approval for taking harsh political action in Haryana. Then followed the PAC meeting, presided over by newly-elected President Bommai. There was total unanimity that Chautala should quit the next morning or face the sack from the party. Unlike February, there was no stalemate about who would bell the cat. Bommai, as party president, would convey the message to Chautala and to Devi Lal.

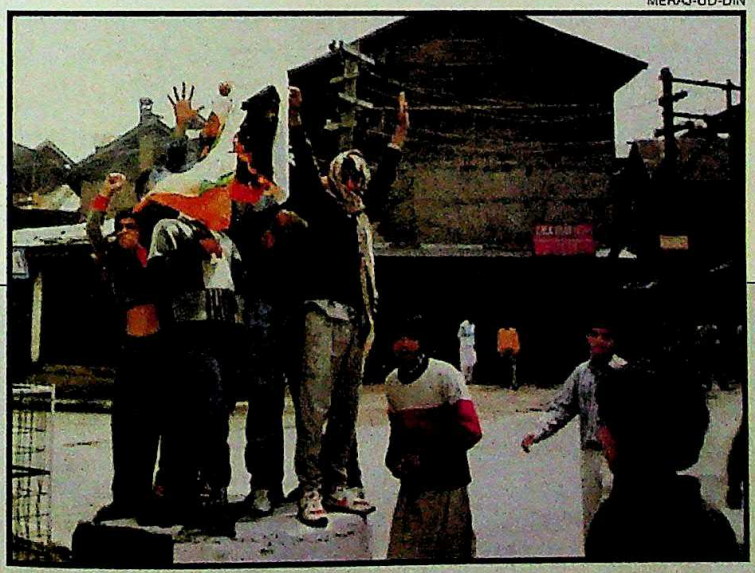
BOMMAI summoned a recalcitrant Chautala to Delhi from Chandigarh, and in the presence of Devi Lal, informed him that if he did not quit he would be ejected from the party. Devi Lal maintained a stony silence. Chimanbhai Patel and Biju Patnaik followed with a similar message.

What was truly significant in all this, and what stunned the Tau into silent acceptance was that Bommai, Patel, and Biju Patnaik were supposed to be a part of his own group. The wily raja had succeeded in using the Devi Lal faction to act against Devi Lal. The Jan Morchaites, Arun Nehru and Arif Mohammed Khan, kept out. So the fight, instead of degenerating into a factional squabble, assumed the dimension of an issue-based battle. And this could hardly have occurred without a major reorganisation within the Janata Dal.

All along, Singh's main problem had been his own party. While the Congress(I) had been behaving as a cohesive party, the Janata Dal had been at sixes and sevens. This was because when Singh became prime minister he inducted all the party office holders into his cabinet. The bosses controlled the party levers even while in government and Singh was left to take the flak. His aim had always been to force an election within the party that would result in a general realignment of factions. His first signal to partymen was the one-man-one-post formula under which he decided to relinquish his own post as party president. The idea was to persuade others, like parliamentary party president Devi Lal and Uttar Pradesh party chief Mulayam Singh Yadav, to follow suit.

Singh's immediate move was to ask for a new election for party president. Here, he was offering Devi Lal a bait, and the Jat leader grabbed it by announcing

MERAJ-UD-DIN



"THE SECESSIONIST MOVEMENT WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO SUCCEED"

Q. Did they lecture you as well?

A. Nobody comes to India to lecture to us. We're not given to being lectured to.

Q. Coming back home, there seems no clear-cut direction in your own party. You seem to be at war with it. There's alway dissension and disunity.

A. The so-called 'clear-cuts' like Fotedar and Satish Sharma helped bring Rajiv Gandhi down. I don't follow any clear-cut roads to disaster. My first political mandate is to consolidate, whatever the cost to me. And dissent has to be allowed. Some of the cornerstones of democracy wear the inscription, 'unity'. If I were so enamoured of that slogan, I would have remained in the Congress(I). We had fiercely contested party elections in Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. Our party didn't break up. Did the Congress(I) ever have those kinds of election?

Q. But by their statements and actions, have not the deputy prime minister and his sons damaged your party and its public image?

A. Devi Lalji expresses his own opinions. He has never spoken against the party. I give full marks to him for helping the party resolve the Meham problem.

Q. And also to Chautala?

A. He has responded to the president of the party, S.R. Bommai.

Q. But last February, you failed to solve the problem and get Chautala to resign.

A. Individuals in the party don't decide. Those decisions are taken by the Political Affairs Committee.

Q. It seems you believe in postponing resolutions to ➡

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

■ **Singh's compromises to appease various political forces have ensured his survival but not enhanced his image**

Bommai's candidacy. Bommai had a rural and socialist background that would appeal even to Chandra Shekhar, but most of all it was a move to sidetrack the Tau's archfoe, Ramakrishna Hegde, who was also in the running. Meanwhile, a faction led by Biju Patnaik proposed the name of Jaipal Reddy.

V.P. Singh's tactic throughout was to ensure that he and his Jan Morcha associates maintained strict neutrality. The Janata Dal leaders were confronted with a brutal decision: split the party or make a unanimous choice. For once, burying their differences, the various factions chose Bommai unanimously.

This proved to be an ace feather in V.P. Singh's cap. A unanimously-

INTERVIEW

V.P. SINGH

crises and taking late decisions.

A. Collectively.

Q. *You decide to postpone decisions collectively?*

A. We have always made decisions.

Q. *Your budget seemed confused. It does not reflect any clear thinking on economic policy.*

A. A budget is not the only instrument of economic policy. Our emphasis is on employment, and decentralising production while still employing modern technology to produce items of mass consumption. Our emphasis on more resources for the rural sector will continue.

Q. *What about the promises for a more competitive economy and lesser controls?*

A. We are dismantling unproductive controls, licences and permits. In the power sector we are ready to invite the private sector. We are opening it up for concrete proposals from private companies. Also, there will be a major dismantling of licences and quotas for agro-industries. This sector will be liberated from government controls as far as possible, as will the small-scale sector below a certain level of investment.

Q. *What about the Government getting out of unproductive areas, such as running hotels?*

A. Well, since we will do everything to boost exports, we will promote tourism as a major foreign exchange earner. We want to involve the private sector in setting up tourist centres and motels, invite foreign investment and even relax the 40-per cent foreign ownership limitation. We must make the quality of the product competitive and saleable.

Q. *But what about repatriation?*

A. True. Our currency is not convertible, so repatriation is only possible to the level of foreign exchange we bring in from exports. So foreign investments can expand according to the equivalent of the export earnings we have. And we will not back off from adding high-tech to wherever our infrastructural needs demand it. All this may mean constant retraining of our labour force as Japan does. But it must be done at a pace at which the domestic industry is trained to compete, and not strained, or drained.

Q. *Another public perception is that you've got bogged down on the Bofors investigation and are not making any headway.*

A. Within a short period of time we've exposed the previous government thoroughly. On the basis of the same records available to us, we've got the accounts frozen. They

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

sen president, in asserting the wishes the party, could not be questioned as ional. And any new president so sen has also to demonstrate that he's factional puppet. Bommai was the ect weapon to use against Devi Lal. mately it was Devi Lal's own hatchet Singh wielded against him.

But another matter remained to be en care of before the final denoue- nt. Until May 21, the Congress(I) rus was directed against V.P. Singh the Meham issue. They were de- nding the dissolution of the Haryana sembly, hoping that an election with help of an alienated Devi Lal would their way. This incipient Congress(I) cking was also Devi Lal's implied eat to V.P. Singh's Government.

But Singh and his closest aides were their manipulative best on May 21. Singh assured Parliament that he uld definitely announce a decision on e Meham issue the following day. eanwhile, even as Rajiv was visiting eham, some Janata Dal aides began a ric lobbying of se- ted Congress(I) MPs an effort to convince em that the only sal- ion for their party in attacking autala, demanding resignation, and ing political credit r it.

The trap was well- d. Chidambaram, Murli Dhar Bhandari, Dinesh Singh and others began screaming for Chautala's resignation believing they had trapped Singh on a major issue of public importance. But what they had really done was to relieve Devi Lal's blackmailing pressure on the Janata Dal. The Tau could now hardly afford to play the Congress(I) card in any good faith and the Congress(I) could hardly be expected to back him after having attacked his family in virulent public speeches.

So when a triumphant Singh announced in Parliament the next day that Chautala had submitted his resignation, he was able to taunt the Congress(I) to full political advantage. He said that in the interest of value-based democracy, the Congress(I) president should also resign because of the booth capturing and violence in Amethi. The Congress(I) benches were a spectacle of shocked silence. Admitted Madhavrao Scindia: "V.P. Singh caught us in a pincer movement."

Singh's supporters see in his actions the signals of a new assertiveness, an uncharacteristic willingness to take the bull by the horns, and the devil take the hindmost. His detractors see a man still floundering in cosmic confusion, beating a retreat into delayed action when faced with growing criticism. How does he see himself? As a man working out complex solutions to complex problems.

Says Foreign Minister I.K. Gujral: "Shastri was also projected as weak, but this was proved wrong. V.P. Singh is like Shastri: he believes in carrying the team with him." BJP President L.K. Advani reaffirms this paradox of a man who appeases and yet follows his own independent vision. Says he: "He is a shrewd politician who avoids giving offence. No minister can claim to be close to him. Even after becoming the prime minister of the country he continues to be a loner."

In Singh's own view, his government has been on a fast track with a record number of legislative actions and initiatives *(see interview)*. But to the public at large, the last half-year has represented a government on a treadmill, unable to deal with prices and law and order, at war with itself, blaming the previous government rather than getting along with the business

BHAWAN SINGH

"PAKISTAN'S ULTIMATE GOAL IS TO SEVER PART OF OUR COUNTRY"

uld have done the me, and must an- er to the nation why y did not. They had ested interest in ering up.

Q. *Where do you ink the investiga- n will end?*

A. We will take it to logical conclusion. ss bank procedures e the toughest in the rld, but the Swiss thorities are cooper- g with us in the investigation.

Q. *You are constantly accused of being vindictive wards the previous regime.*

A. The law of the land will take its course on the basis of idence.

Q. *But even in your government, there's lobbying, the e nexus between big money and the Government. How n you change that?*

A. This cannot change simply by changing a govern- ent or a prime minister. A few governments will have to be melted in the political crucible before the system can be changed.

Q. *Are you experiencing a little resistance in breaking the nexus?*

A. A little? That is an understatement.

Q. *You keep talking about handling major issues, but you have not come to grips with the price rise.*

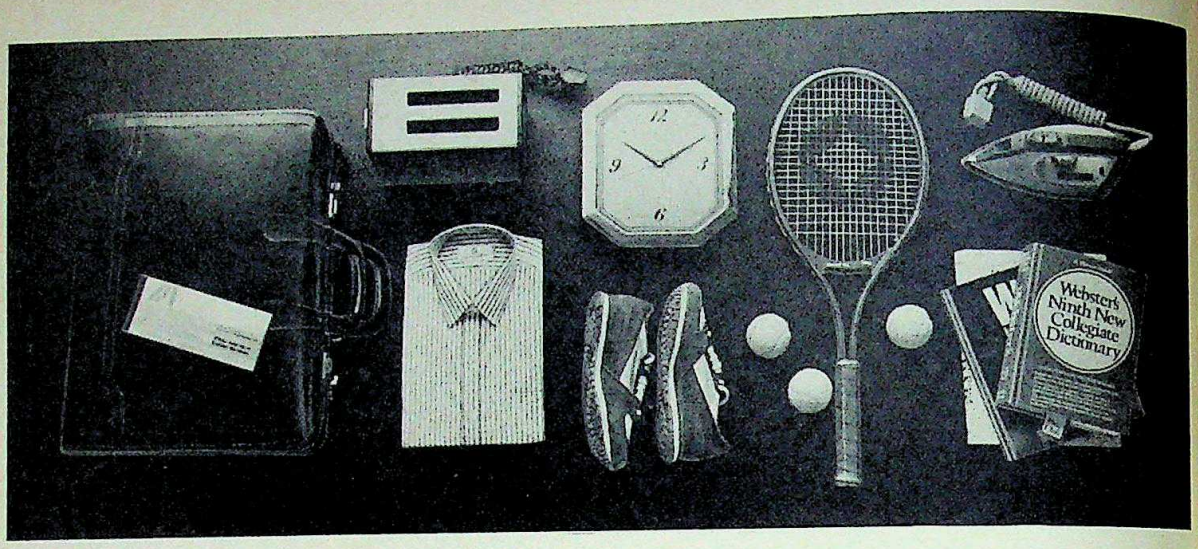
A. We are beginning to. The price of sugar had touched Rs 10 and it's now down to about Rs 8 a kilo. The price of cement has been brought down from Rs 100 to about Rs 82. There are items like edible oils that still need to be tackled. And if some has to be imported, we shall do so.

Q. *Still, it is difficult to figure out who runs your government. Is it the Left or the BJP, or the Congress(I) lobbyists?*

A. That, you will never know. ■

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



BUY ALL THIS IN ABOUT 2.5 SECONDS, PAY FOR IT IN AROUND ONE WHOLE YEAR.

THAT'S 3,15,36,000 SECONDS.

THE ONLY CARD IN THE COUNTRY THAT ALLOWS YOU TO BUY NOW AND PAY IN EASY INSTALMENTS OVER ONE YEAR

THE ANZ GRINDLAYS VISA CLASSIC CARD

WHERE YOUR CREDIT DOESN'T END WITH THE MONTH

ANZ Grindlays Bank

YOU CAN OWN AN ANZ GRINDLAYS VISA CLASSIC CARD EVEN IF YOU DON'T HAVE AN ACCOUNT WITH US. JUST CALL OR VISIT YOUR NEAREST BRANCH. AND IF THERE ISN'T ONE IN YOUR CITY, WRITE TO US HERE: CARD SERVICES DIVISION: 90, M.G. ROAD, BOMBAY 400 001. PHONE: 270007/270162.

ANZ GRINDLAYS MAIN BRANCHES: ☐ BOMBAY – 90, M.G. Road, Ph: 270162. ☐ CALCUTTA – 19, N.S. Road, Ph: 208346. ☐ DELHI – 10, Sansad Marg, Ph: 312004. ☐ MADRAS – 19, Rajaji Salai, Ph: 589131. ☐ AMRITSAR – Gandhi Bazar, Ph: 43217. ☐ BANGALORE – Mission Road, Ph: 220300. ☐ COCHIN – Bristow Road, Ph: 69582. ☐ DARJEELING – 49, Laden La Road, Ph: 2777. ☐ GUWAHATI – Fancy Bazar, Ph: 27018. ☐ HYDERABAD – Abids, Ph: 237526. ☐ KANPUR – 16, M.G. Road, Ph: 211462. ☐ SHIMLA – The Mall, Ph: 3025. ☐ SRINAGAR – Sherwani Road, Ph: 76935. ☐ TUTICORIN – 44, Beach Road, Ph: 20817.

SPEER 28 181 90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Now that the public honeymoon is over, Singh's biggest challenge is to retain the faith of the voters

of governing, mired in Punjab, mired in Kashmir, chained hopelessly to its trilateral political perch, appeasing, compromising.

Whatever his compulsions in Kashmir, the public impression is that a weak and vacillating prime minister removed a man of courage because of appeasement, and under pressure from home and abroad. The public may even see it as a victory for the Congress(I).

And there is no telling whether the terrorists will see this as a retreat and step up their pressure with increased infiltration from Pakistan as the snows melt in the coming weeks. The Kashmir administration today stands thoroughly demoralised because it looked to Jagmohan as a team leader. And in the absence of his role as a buffer there will be more direct heat on Mufti Mohammed Sayeed who is still vulnerable on account of his handling of the Rubaiya kidnapping and because, in Kashmir, he is associated with corrupt and discredited politicians who were feeling the heat from the Jagmohan administration. The BJP is bound to attack the Mufti with a new fervour arguing that he sabotaged Jagmohan's efforts to safeguard his own vested interests in the valley.

Another obvious comparison is with Punjab where the killings have doubled, and yet the dithering has gone on. And here too Singh's approach to the problem is like that of the previous government—playing one Akali Dal faction against another, promising polls and not holding them. Last week, however, he sought to replace Governor Nirmal Mukarji, indicating he was moving on Punjab as well, in preparation for state elections.

BUT even though the humbling of Devi Lal may have given Singh more room for manoeuvre within his own party, the public image is still that of a man who acts only because of outside pressure. And Singh's public praise for Chautala after he submitted his resignation looked simply incongruous to a public that seemed to say, in consternation, well, if he is such a good man, then why did you remove him? Says Tariq Anwar, former Bihar Congress(I) chief and president of the recently launched Jan Astha Manch: "Tragically, he hasn't initiated any concrete action to fulfil the promises he made. His only concern has been to please the BJP and other communal forces to remain in power."

Perhaps the country still subconsciously compares this period with the first few months of Rajiv's era which were all razzle-dazzle and full of promise with the freshness of Rajiv. But because Singh has been in the public eye for so long, there's a sense of staleness. He carried political electricity when he was an underdog, on the road, and during the campaign when his sole aim was to carry the people with him. The difference is that now that he's in government he has to carry the Government. And for people so used to the public relations gimmicks of the past, that's boring. Ashok Mitra believes that the dodging and ducking is essential to Singh's political survival. He says: "Singh represents the transition phase from authoritarianism to the rule of law. In traversing this path he has to be careful not to alienate too many elements."

Rajiv Gandhi sold Adidas. Singh is stuck with selling 'the rule of law' and in the process he's boring the country to death. But in the long run it's perhaps better for the country's health to be bored rather than dazzled.

—INDERJIT BADHWAR and PRABHU CHAWLA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HOW MUCH DO YOU KNOW ABOUT THE CAR YOU'VE DECIDED TO BUY?

Wouldn't it be a shame if, in your ignorance, you know the entire facts about the car you want to buy?

Meet the MONTANA – take a look at it, feature by feature – and you will agree that it offers you more 'car value' for your money.

The MONTANA acts as a protective 'body helmet' for you and your family, through absorbing and localising the impact of collision.

of MONTANA is ideal for hours of happy motoring all year around.

The heat resistant fibreglass body keeps the interiors

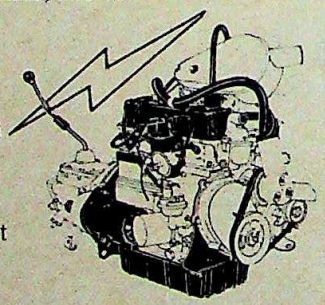
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

DECIDED TO BUY?

Personal life is precious. Make it fair, shouldn't you know the entire facts about the car you want to buy? Meet the MONTANA – take a look at it, feature by feature – and you will agree that it offers you more 'car value' for your money.

Economy for instance ...

Rising fuel bills and exorbitant maintenance costs?
MONTANA has a lot to offer you.
Choose the compact, tri-cylinder, 900 cc smooth and silent new generation diesel engine version that gives you an incredible 70 km for the cost of one litre of petrol. The money you save on fuel bills will help you recover the cost of your MONTANA as you drive through the years.



You could also decide on MONTANA's 850 cc 38 BHP, petrol version, with the best available power pack in its class, that gives you 22 kms to a litre of petrol. Replaceable liners dispense entirely with reboring costs.
With an all synchromesh 4 speed gear box and fully floating rear axle, the car is as comfortable on the road as you are behind the wheel.

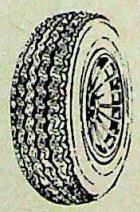
Safety

Do you know why crucial life-saving helmets are made of fibre glass?
Because it is the most technologically advanced material

The MONTANA acts as a protective 'body helmet' for you and your family, through absorbing and localising the impact of collision.
A low centre of gravity prevents the car from rolling over or turning turtle – and in the event of its ever happening, the 'anti-roll' bar ensures total passenger safety in the coupe.
The tough fibre-glass body is so easy to repair. In case of minor accidents the body bounces back into shape. And being totally anti-corrosive and rust proof ensures a potentially life-long body, incurring no tinkering and regular painting costs.

MONTANA is a perfect performer

The backbone of this tough car is a solid steel box section chassis with dual wish-bone suspension. Its coil springs and shock absorbers make smooth work of rough roads taking you over the beaten track with ease.



Radial tyres come as standard equipment with your MONTANA, because we don't believe in optional extras when it comes to tyres, as so much depends on them. Like maximum manoeuverability, a vice like road grip and no-skid situations. With a turning radius of 24 feet the car can zip in and out of busy traffic or just squeeze into a tight parking lot with ease.

The interior space of MONTANA is ideal for hours of happy motoring all year around.

The heat resistant fibreglass body keeps the interiors cool even during the peak of summer.
Classy interiors with plush, upholstered, bucket seats offer more leg and elbow room than any other Indian car in its class. A glare free dash board console, easy to use floor shift gears, and a luggage area that can contain loads you'll never think of getting into a car of its size.
Now that we've told you all you need to know about the MONTANA, why not decide on one?

SIPANI AUTOMOBILES LIMITED
Tumkur Road, Bangalore-560 022.

MONTANA

• AHMEDABAD, Tel: 352738 • AURANGABAD, Tel: 25495 • ALIGARH, Tel: 29330 • AMBALA, Tel: 24056 • AGRA, Tel: 68661 •BOMBAY Tel: 456310 • BILLIMORA, Tel: 2365 • BANGALORE, Tel: 263277 • BELLARY, Tel: 3035 • BAREILLY (UP), Tel: 73710 • BHUBANESHWAR, Tel: 50899 • BHOPAL, Tel: 35946 • CALICUT, Tel: 60117 • COIMBATORE, Tel: 24215. CALCUTTA, Tel: 758916 • DELHI, Tel: 637400 • ERNAKULAM, Tel: 802327 • GAUHATI, Tel: 27466 • GWALIOR, Tel: 23255. • HUBLI, Tel: 62617 • JABALPUR (MP) Tel: 20581 • JAIPUR, Tel: 73682 • KANPUR, Tel: 240265.KUMBAKONAM, Tel: 20938 • LUCKNOW, Tel: 246068 • MANGALORE, Tel: 24881 • MYSORE, Tel: 20487 • MADRAS, Tel: 869642 & MADRAS, Tel: 831355 • MADURAI, Tel: 37451 • MORADABAD, Tel: 27250 • MATHURA, Tel: 4058 • MARGAO, Tel: 21143 • NAGPUR, Tel: 34209 • PUNE, Tel: 654150 • PONDICHERRY, Tel: 24310 • RAIPUR, Tel: 29634 • SRI GANGANAGAR, Tel:22527 • SAHARANPUR, Tel: 26051 • SALEM, Tel: 77259 • SECUNDERABAD, Tel: 70971 • SRINAGAR, Tel: 74735 • THANE, Tel: 595742 • TIRUNELVELI, Tel: 73332 • VIJAYAWADA, Tel: 74334 • VARANASI, Tel: 42880.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE HINDUJAS

Under Scrutiny

With the National Front Government looking into the Hindujas' dealings in India, the Britain-based billionaire brothers will have a lot of answering to do.

MEET them on a street corner and you would mistake them for tackily dressed stockbrokers from Bombay's Dalal Street. Brokers they are, but their league is Wall Street. In trading and brokering over two decades, the four London-based Hinduja brothers have amassed billions, making them the richest among expatriate Indians. They own a Swiss bank and petroleum companies, and they trade in arms and food products. And by last year, they had managed to achieve a long-cherished dream—a firm foothold in the Indian corridors of power.

The dream has swiftly turned into a nightmare with the coming to power of the Vishwanath Pratap Singh Government. Their business dealings with India are now just about on top of the Government's most-investigated list. The CBI has been pursuing Gopi Chand Hinduja in a so-far unsuccessful attempt to interrogate him and his passport is in the process of being impounded. Another brother has been slapped with a government "red alert" which permits law enforcement agencies to arrest him if he enters India.

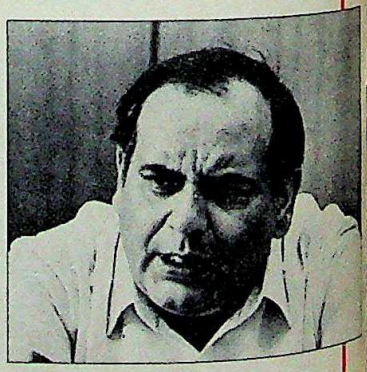
The action against Gopi Chand stems from his having been named as one of the accused in the criminal cases filed by the Government in the HDW submarine and Bofors kickback scandals. The brothers continue to maintain a wounded innocence. "Let the Government prove anything against us. We are willing to pay any price and accept any punishment. There should not be trial by press," S.P. Hinduja told INDIA TODAY.

The brothers accuse the Indian Government of political vendetta orchestrated by their arch foe, first in the Rajiv Gandhi government, and now in the National Front Government, the powerful Commerce Minister, Arun Nehru.

The National Front Government is not about to relent because it suspects that the Hindujas' influence in various defence deals and in various megabuck government contracts will ultimately lead to the smoking gun in the various financial scandals that buffeted the Rajiv Gandhi administration.

After filing charges against the Hindujas in the Bofors and HDW cases, the new Government ordered the finance, industry and commerce ministries to review every decision made by them in the past on the family's companies in India. In addition, the Finance Ministry reopened the tax returns of the Hinduja Hospital in Bombay and the Madras-based Ashok Leyland, a company they acquired in 1988 through purchase of the firm's overseas holding from Iveco, an Italian concern. Over Rs 20 lakh given as donation by Ashok Leyland to the Hinduja Hospital in 1987-88 is now under scrutiny, and the authorities have also decided to impose

THE HIT-TEAM



(Clockwise from left) V.P. Singh; Arun Nehru; Ajit Singh: mounting an attack

- **With the coming to power of the V.P. Singh Government, the Hindujas' business dealings are now just about on top of the Government's most-investigated list.**
- **Industry Minister Ajit Singh initiated a secret inquiry into the charge that Ashok Leyland, a Hinduja company, was the beneficiary of an improper financial hand-out.**
- **Commerce Minister Arun Nehru scuttled a Hinduja deal with his ministry for the leasing rights of a London building and is reviewing another for the export of manganese ore to Iran.**

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

an additional tax of Rs 2.5 crore on donations the hospital received from abroad. The donations have been treated as revenue.

The Hindujas insist that any inference of influence-peddling by them within ministries when the Congress(I) was in power is unsupportable. They claim, conversely, that they were the victims of the Rajiv government. Says a Hinduja aide: "The brothers were willing to bring in over Rs 10,000 crore of investment in petroleum, communications and the power sector, but none of that was accepted by the previous government. And now they are being accused of being Rajiv's favourites."

But the Government remains disinfuls of these arguments and notwithstanding massive international lobbying, public relations, and legal counter-offensive launched by the Hindujas, its investigations show no signs of flagging.

A major attack by the Government was mounted from an unexpected quarter—the Industry Ministry. Acting on a tip that Ashok Leyland may have been the beneficiary of an improper financial hand-out, Industry Minister Ajit Singh initiated a secret inquiry in late February. The findings: major violations of the rules by his own officials.

The inquiry revealed that in April 1989, Ashok Leyland approached the Industry Ministry for a soft, long-term loan of Rs 40 crore for financing a technology collaboration agreement with the Italian giant, Iveco. According to the Technical Development Fund Scheme, which makes concessional loans, the maximum permissible in any given year is Rs 1.25 crore. But the ministry gave Rs 11.50 crore to Ashok Leyland in the first year. It also agreed to finance the company's five-year expansion programme, against the rules. In 1987, the ministry had rejected a similar request by Kirloskar Pneumatics Limited.

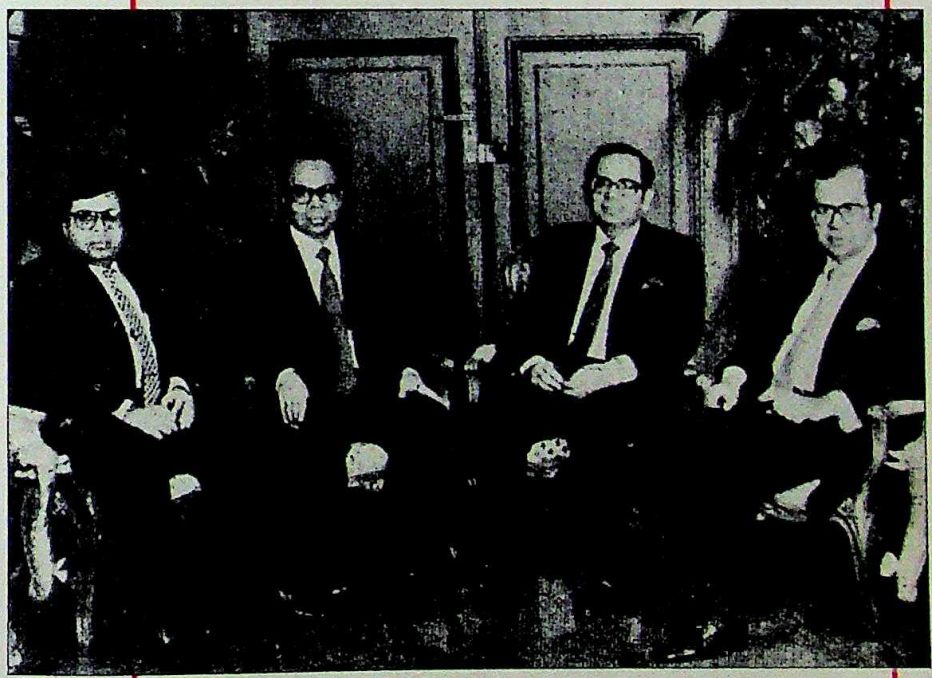
Ashok Leyland was the only exception made since 1976 when this scheme was floated. A confidential assessment made by the Central Vigilance Commission notes that ministry officials seemed to have shown "undue favour" to Ashok Leyland.

And Arun Nehru was also pulling all the stops. First, he scuttled the Hinduja deal with the Commerce Ministry under which the Tea Board building on London's fashionable Oxford Street—leased by the Indian Government—would be selling leasing rights to the Hindujas. The Hindujas claimed they were offering a handsome deal, but Commerce Ministry officials are of the view that the building, on lease for another 30 years, was being farmed out to the Hindujas well below the commercial rates in London.

ALSO under review is a Hinduja deal to export manganese ore to Iran. Investigators suspect that a Hinduja trading company, Aasia, was given an unfair edge over possible competitors through political influence in Delhi and Karnataka. According to the files, Aasia informed the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC)—the canalising agency—in July 1989, that it could get an order for 50,000 tonnes from Iran which had never bought the mineral from India. But Aasia was informed by the MMTC that it would not be possible for it to entertain Aasia's request unless the Centre agreed to enhance the outer limit of 400,000 tonnes of manganese ore to be exported annually. Contracts with various countries for this upper limit had already been signed. The Hindujas stood to lose a remunerative contract worth over Rs 5 crore ($2.5 million).

Suddenly on October 23, 1989, barely a few weeks before the Lok Sabha elections, the Commerce Ministry headed by Dinesh Singh issued a special notification decanalising the export of manganese ore. And a week later, Aasia signed a contract with the Iranians for the supply of 50,000 tonnes at $50 per tonne. And two weeks later, Mysore

THE TARGETS



The Hinduja brothers: suspicious deals

- **The National Front Government suspects that the Hindujas' influence in various defence deals and in megabuck government contracts will ultimately lead to the smoking gun in the numerous financial scandals that buffeted the Rajiv Gandhi government.**

- **The Hinduja brothers continue to maintain an air of wounded innocence and challenge the Indian Government to prove anything against them. They accuse the Government of political vendetta orchestrated by their arch foe, first in the Rajiv Gandhi government, and now in the National Front Government, the powerful Commerce Minister, Arun Nehru.**

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Minerals Limited, a Karnataka state public sector firm, also signed an agreement for releasing additional supply of 50,000 tonnes of manganese at $42 to Aasia for export to Iran—which means Aasia was making a commission of $8 per tonne or a total of about Rs 70 lakh.

But there was another hurdle. While decanalising the export, the Government made it clear that any exporting agency would have to register its export contract with the MMTC and also get an export licence from the chief controller of exports and imports. When Aasia approached both these agencies for registration, it was told that the upper limit of 400,000 tonnes was already exhausted and could be raised only by the Steel Ministry.

Even after the Government changed hands, officials from various ministries continued pushing Aasia's case on the plea that it would get them additional foreign exchange. MMTC and the Commerce Ministry even recommended raising the limit of export by at least 50,000 tonnes so that Aasia could honour its commitment. As a result of extensive lobbying, on January 22, the Steel Ministry acceded to the request of the Commerce Ministry for allowing the export of additional 50,000 tonnes.

In Karnataka too, the bureaucracy was out to help the Hindujas. Mysore Minerals Chairman Bulla Suba Rao, an IAS officer, wrote to the MMTC regularly to expedite the case.

With the case now under fresh scrutiny, investigators suspect that under political pressure, officials refused to question the low price at which Mysore Minerals signed the contract and also allowed the Hindujas to make a hefty commission of $8 a tonne. The Hindujas, however, claim that their profit would have been less than $5 because of costs like insurance and performance guarantees. Moreover, they were helping the country earn more foreign exchange.

Meanwhile, someone tipped off Commerce Minister Arun Nehru about the deal. And even as the Steel Ministry was processing Aasia's request for extra allocation, the Commerce Ministry had quietly initiated action to put manganese ore back on MMTC's canalised list.

IN what turned out to be high commercial drama, within 48 hours of receiving the Steel Ministry's approval for the additional export, the Commerce Ministry officially recanalised the export of manganese ore. And once Arun Nehru got into the act, Mysore Minerals sensed trouble. Bula Rao did a quick volte face. He airdashed to New Delhi on March 5 and informed the MMTC that he would not supply the ore to the Hindujas' company as it had violated some conditions of the agreement. Instead, he placed the entire quantity of additional 50,000 tonnes at the disposal of the MMTC for export.

Armed with this order, the MMTC scouted around for customers and discovered that it could sell the product at $53 a tonne to a European nation last month, thus making more money for the country. Arun Nehru and the MMTC have rejected not only repeated representations from the Hindujas for an audience but also their request for routing the export through the MMTC at a reduced profit.

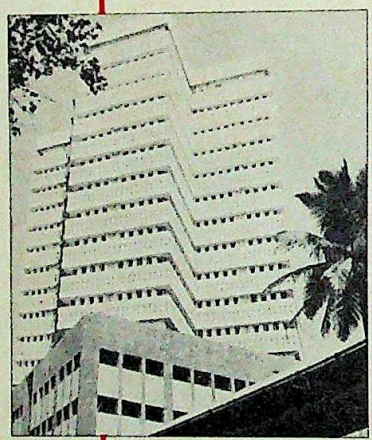
Last month, the MMTC received a communication from the Iranians that they were willing to lift the cargo at $50 a tonnne. Reacted a Hinduja representative based in New Delhi: "It is the nation which is suffering from this and not we. If we don't deliver to the Iranians now, we will lose a permanent customer for ever."

But the Hindujas have not given up. Contrary to their hitherto low-key style of functioning, they have attacked the Indian Government's stand on Bofors and HDW openly. Their solicitors have issued press releases raising serious questions about the Government's stand. Gopi Chand has written two letters to the prime minister, refuting the Government's charges, yet offering total co-operation in the probe.

And they are not entirely without sympathisers in New Delhi's new power structure. Senior leaders of the BJP and the Janata Dal have recently made representations on behalf of the Hindujas before the prime minister, the commerce minister and the cabinet secretary. Even a pro-Janata Dal film star political activist, who has worked in some of the films financed by the Hindujas, spoke to Arun Nehru. And overseas units of the pro-BJP Vishwa Hindu Parishad sent representations pleading the Hindujas' case. The mainline argument of persuasion has been that as an already foreign exchange-starved government, India risks losing millions in investment from non-resident Indians if it is viewed as being vindictive towards non-resident businessmen out of political motivation. But the V.P. Singh Government wasn't budging. Its immediate aim is to demonstrate—as Singh had promised on his campaign trail—that his government cannot be bought. And the long-term aim is a political one—to follow every lead and reopen every case that promises to embarrass Rajiv Gandhi and his out-of-power but not yet out-of-sight Congress(I) Party.

—PRABHU CHAWLA

THE CHARGES



Hinduja Hospital; (above) Ashok Leyland logo

- **Over Rs 20 lakh given as donation by Ashok Leyland to the Hinduja Hospital in 1987-88 is under scrutiny; an additional tax of Rs 2.5 crore has been imposed on donations received from abroad.**
- **Industry officials violated rules in granting Ashok Leyland a soft long-term loan and financing the company's expansion programme.**
- **Aasia, a Hinduja trading company, was given an unfair edge over possible competitors through political influence in Delhi and Karnataka.**

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DON'T BOTHER

ONLY IF OVERHAULING YOUR CAR ENGINE AFTER 50,000 KM IS NO BOTHER

Oil, Fuel and Air filters can decide the fate of your car engine. If they are inefficient, you will get dislocated valves, damaged piston rings, ruined cylinder walls, engine seizure. and over Rs. 7000/- in repair bills.

If they work — the way Purolator does — you will get the optimum 1,50,000 km. between overhauls, excellent trouble-free running, and low maintenance bills.

So, go ahead, insist on Purolator.
The filters your mechanic would
highly recommend.

Purolator

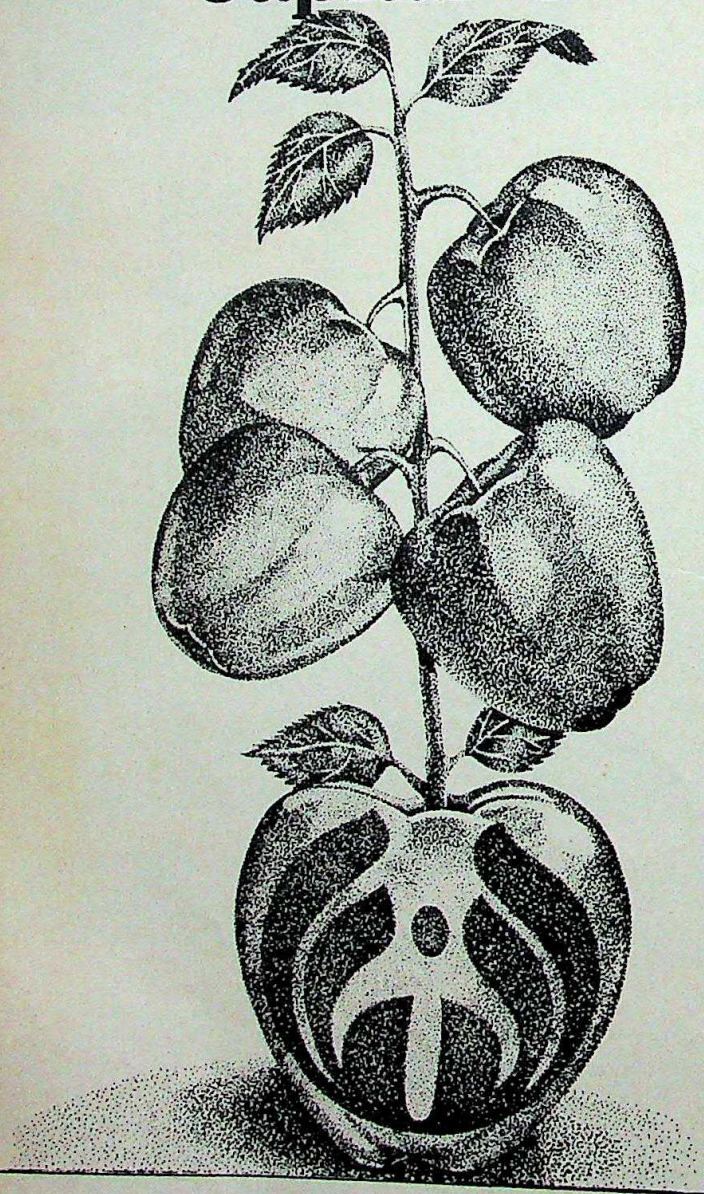
THE WORLD'S BEST SELLING FILTERS

A member of the ANAND group of companies.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IDBI Capital Bonds An attractive instrument for exemption from Capital Gains Tax.



- Available at par throughout the year.
- Exemption from Capital Gains tax under Section 54E of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Exemption from Wealth tax under Section 5(1) (xvie) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957
- Income tax benefit under Section 80L.
- Interest at 9% p.a. payable half yearly.
- At the investor's option, interest for the full period of 3 years can be paid in advance on discounted basis.
- No deduction of tax at source.
- Outstation cheques accepted and cost of collection will be borne by IDBI.

For further details contact the nearest IDBI office or write to Manager

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

IDBI TOWER, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay 400 005.

Sobhagya-90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

KARACHI

A Beirut in the Making

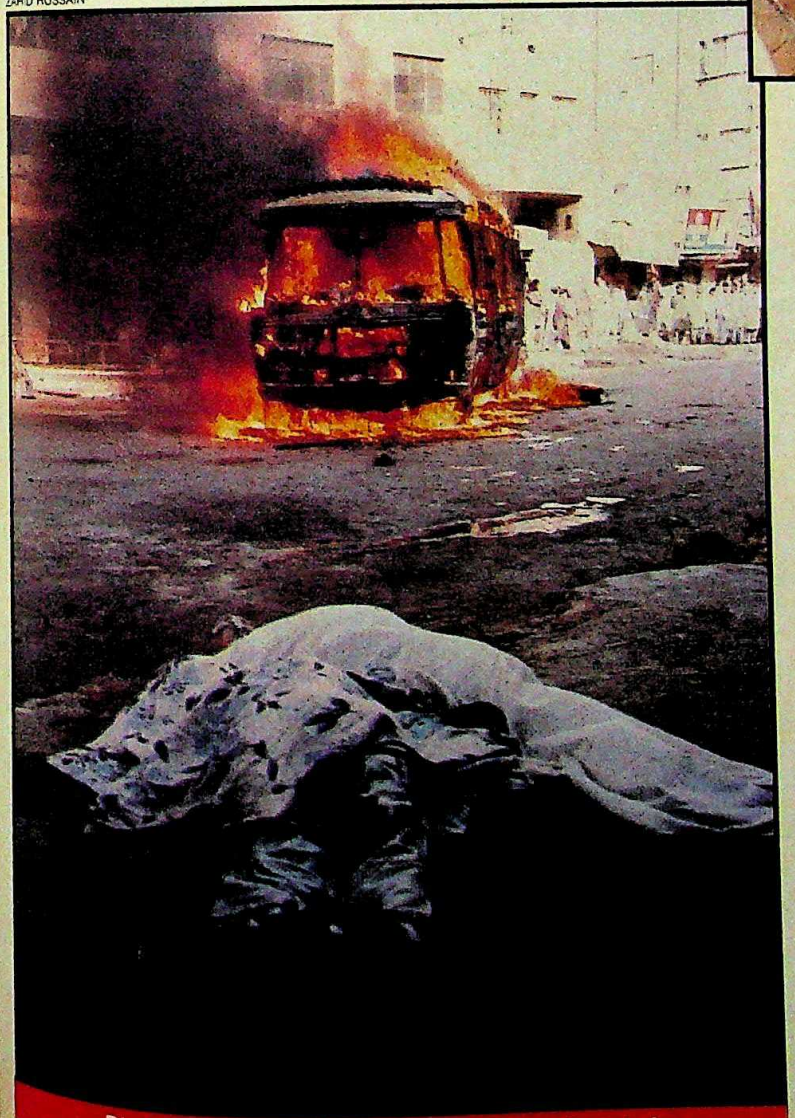
Ethnic strife among the Sindhis, Mohajirs and Pakhtoons, gang warfare and kidnappings bring Pakistan's biggest city into a state of anarchy.

OVER 70 dead/Over 300 injured/ Over 50 tortured/Two-thirds of Karachi under curfew/A military man presiding over the exchange of abductees (Are they prisoners of war?)
—An appeal by Sind Citizens' Committee

INDEED, they are—prisoners of a bizarre war a metropolis is waging on itself. On a rough count last fortnight at least 50 of them languished in the custody of unknown captors. Businessmen plucked out of their cars on the way home from work. Children of the rich and famous, stars of the ransom bazaar. Within the past year more than 85 prominent people, mainly rich businessmen have been kidnapped.

Kidnapping for ransom, revenge or torture has become common in Karachi. "There is a siege mentality here," says Farooq Sumar, 41, executive of a Rs 45-crore textile factory. "Each day you wonder, will I be kidnapped? Will I be shot?"

ZAHID HUSSAIN



Rioting and sniper firing takes a deadly toll each day

"Even the educated and the intellectuals have lost reason. It is not easy to keep the peace. It has been the longest year of my life."
FAKHRUDDIN G. IBRAHIM
Governor of Sind

Karachi is Pakistan's biggest city, its only major port and main commercial centre. Karachi is to Pakistan what Bombay is to India, a cosmopolitan, vibrant and liberal centre of business and culture. It's mixed 6-million population of native Sindhis, Mohajirs (refugees from India), Memons, Punjabis, Pathans, Baluchis, Parsis, Christians and even a few Hindus was meant to be the showpiece of Jinnah's Pakistan, an Islamic state that was liberal.

But things began to change with the Afghan war. In came Kalashnikovs and drugs, along with waves of Pathan diaspora. Then some five years back emerged the scourge of Mohajir Qaumi Mahaz (MQM), the sub-nationalistic refugee movement. Altaf Husain, the charismatic chief of MQM turned it into a bloodthirsty, chauvinistic and

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

 Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

locally omnipotent mafia capable of bringing the city to a standstill. Other communities reacted by launching private armies. As a consequence the city is today compared with Beirut by its own natives.

"Have you read the book called *Children of Siege?* It's about Beirut and it could be about us too," says journalist Sanaullah. Adds prominent citizen Ardeshir Cowasji: "You could call it Beirut. Or maybe Colombia." But Karachi is unique. Here it's a case of people versus people. Sindhi versus Mohajir. Pakhtoon versus Mohajir and Sindhi. Drug-smuggler versus police. Drug-smuggler versus drug-smuggler. Neighbour versus neighbour.

Karachi is also the main outlet for heroin traffic which, according to some estimates, now accounts for 12 per cent of Pakistan's GDP. Officials say the number of illegal Kalashnikovs in the city is over 50,000—you can hire one for a day for Rs 1,000 with no questions asked.

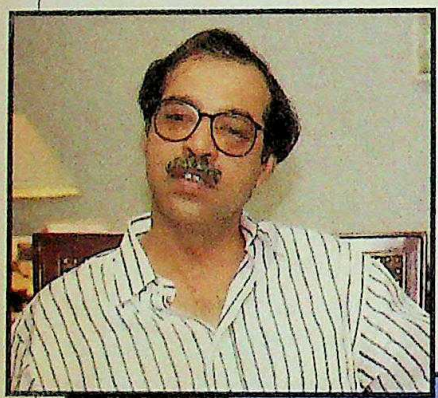
IF the Sindhi-Mohajir tension is a contribution of Partition, the guns, the drugs and the Pakhtoon gangsters are all a fall-out of the Afghan war. As a prominent editor says: "Pakistan is paying the price for being the West's frontline state. Karachi has to pay for being Pakistan's frontline city."

Recently, the Government had to call in army tanks to quell rioting in the city. Rangers, the Pakistani equivalent of the Border Security Force, patrol campuses and frisk every student at the entrance. Incidents of gang warfare, indiscriminate sniper fire and ethnic clashes hold large parts of the city to ransom, claiming over the last fortnight, an average of eight lives each day. Says a senior Pakistani official: "The number of those killed in ethnic and gang warfare in Karachi and Sind in the first four months of this year, was 376, exactly your government's official count for your Kashmir." Last year the toll for Sind exceeded a thousand.

Ethnic rivals are known to use techniques of torture that would impress the Nazis. Burning with cigarette butts is passe. The favourite is the electric drill. Several of those recently kidnapped have ended up in gutters, disembowelled, emasculated and with holes drilled through their knee-caps.

The city limps along in the shadow of paralysis. As a spokesman of the Chamber of Commerce and Industry points out, in the past year only two of the 63 new textile mills set up in Pakistan have been installed in Sind. Normally at least half would have come to Karachi.

Every industrialist narrates tales of those who have either fled or are



"We moved here to this country from Bombay in 1947. Where do we go now? Into the Arabian Sea? The next move will have to be out of Pakistan."

FAROOQ SUMAR, *Chairman, All Pakistan Textile Mills Association*

Photographs by PRASHANT PANJIAR

Panic among businessmen has led to a flight of capital from Pakistan's main commercial centre

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

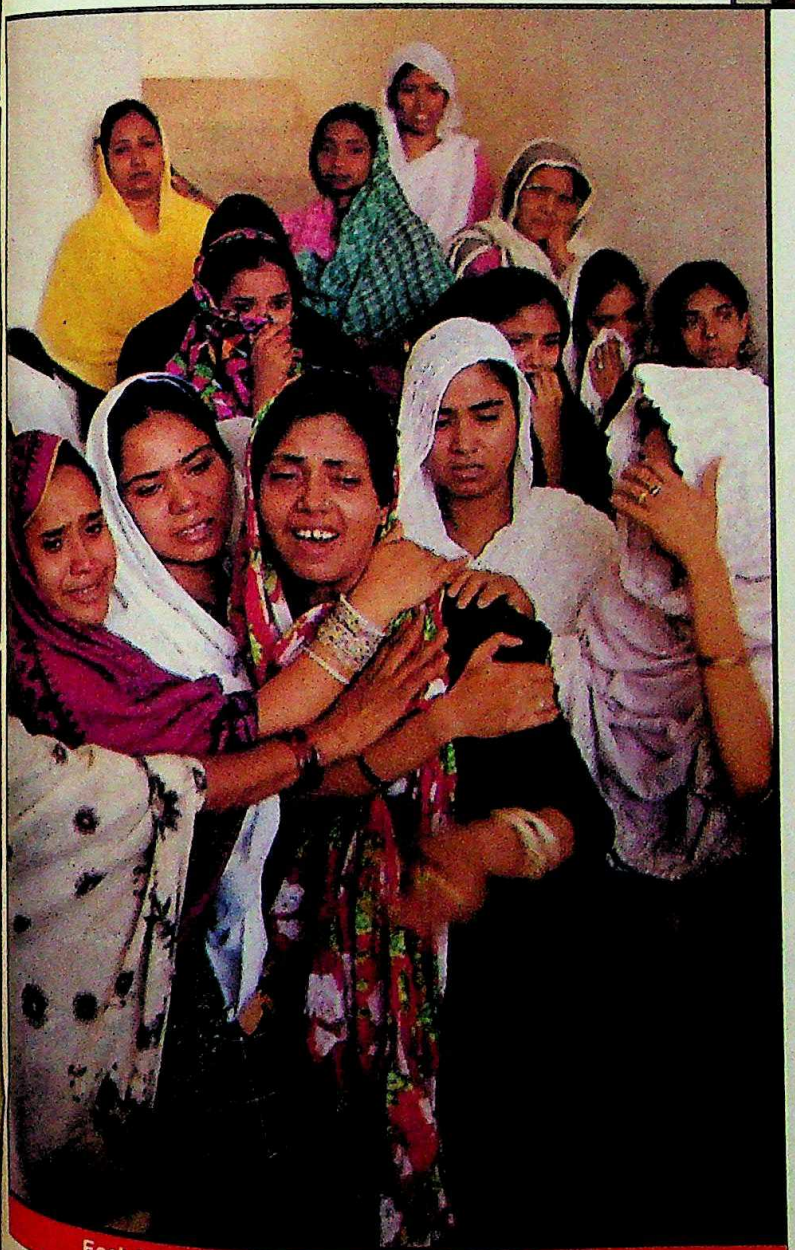
planning to flee. Nooriabad, once flourishing industrial estate 100 km on the superhighway to Hyderabad, is now full of shells of half-built factories. Midway through, as the estate was coming up, the blight of violence struck and most entrepreneurs fled to Punjab or the Frontier. Today Nooriabad is deserted.

But the flight of capital is only a part of the story. The streets tell the rest. In the more expensive parts of the sprawling city there is not one street that is not blocked by a heavy steel gate, often guarded by an armed sentry. The sentries do not wear the uniforms of the beleaguered Karachi police. Their blue helmets, Kalashnikovs and blue-grey uniforms mark them out as belonging to one of the many private security agencies that protect Karachi's rich.

"If you are rich, you pay for security. If you're poor, you only pray," says a senior government official wryly. The security agencies, employing mostly ex-servicemen, have sprung up quickly as the population's faith in the police plummeted. In the up-market Colony of Defence, each family dishes out Rs 500 a month to the security agency. On the fashionable Clifton sea-front, children often sit inside their parents' cars, licking ice-cream while private guards stand on vigil, Kalashnikovs at the ready.

"It's better to fight than run away. If people's faith in the law and order machinery is not restored soon, we could be in for a major disaster."

NAZIM HAJI
Chief of Civil-Police Liaison Cell



Each killing breeds new hatred and brings retribution

In Ferozabad, another upper class division of the city, residents have come up with another novel, if expensive scheme. Each family is paying Rs 8,000 to help the police buy mobiles specifically for patrolling the division, and to install alarm buttons inside each house linked to the mobiles by wireless.

BUT even that is not enough. Mohammed Yusuf (not his real name), the scion of a prominent business family, still shivers as he recounts the three weeks he spent with kidnappers. Only three days were with the gang that stopped his car at gunpoint on way to the club. "They treated me OK. But then they sold me for Rs 10 lakh to another gang. This one starved me for two days and sold me to another gang for Rs 25 lakh. I was sold five times, till my price reached Rs 90 lakh. The sixth buyer collected a ransom of Rs 1.5 crore," he says. For a gang, the hostage is an investment. The longer it can hold on to it, the greater the appreciation. "Imagine being traded like a share certificate in the stock-market," sighs Yusuf.

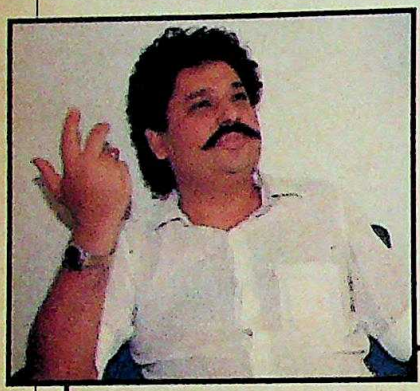
The only saving grace is that while the common man keeps falling to the

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

 Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

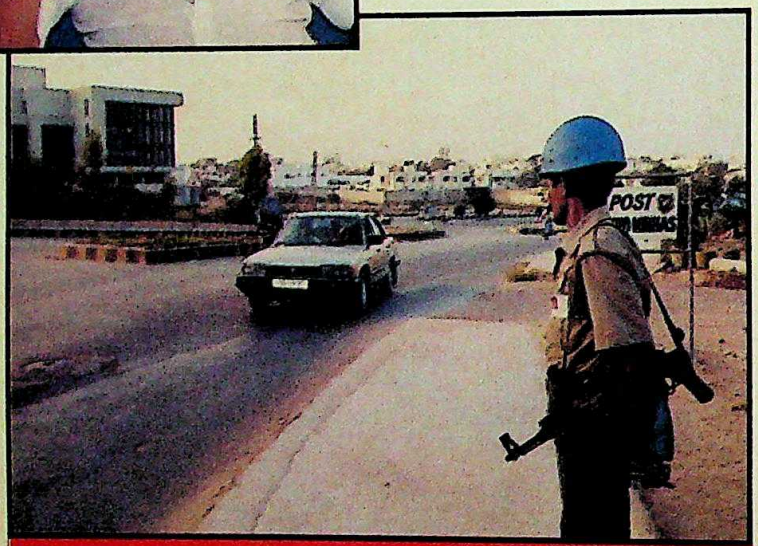
bullets of mysterious snipers and the rich live in the dread of being kidnapped the gangsters are at least even-handed in selecting their targets. Last fortnight, even as Gul Hasan Tarani, father-in-law of Makhdoom Rafiquzzaman, the home minister of Pakistan's Sind province, was kidnapped, the son of Nawab Akbar Bugti, the tribal chief and chief minister of neighbouring Baluchistan, had the mortification of having to give up his brand new Pajero at gunpoint.

In the mayhem, the 16,000-strong police force, led by a mere deputy inspector-general, finds itself hopelessly inadequate. "Our situation is hopeless," says an officer.



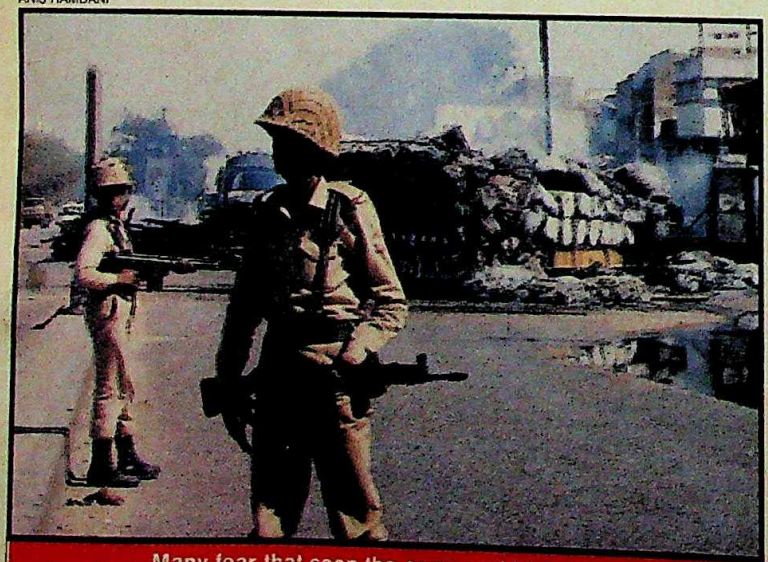
"But for Kashmir, the army would have walked in by now. They may still do so, and then it will be a tragedy for Sind and for Pakistan."

MAKHDOOM KHALIQUZZAMAN
Key PPP leader in Sind



Private securityman carrying Kalashnikov shows loss of faith in police

ANIS HAMDANI



Many fear that soon the army could take over

Acknowledging that there was no salvation for Karachi until the credibility of the police was restored, Fakhruddin Ibrahim, noted jurist and now the governor of Sind, has personally led a drive to bridge the police-people gap. In his own office he has set up a Civil-Police Liaison Cell run by well-known industrialists. "I have tried to help make peace. But it has been the longest year of my life," says Ibrahim.

BEARDED Nazim Haji, owner of a multi-crore biscuit-producing business, is the chief of the cell and hands out calling cards with its logo: "Let's beat crime together." "For people like us, the easy way out was to leave the country. The other was to help fight the menace," he says.

While industrialists like Haji man the cell, hundreds others of his ilk have taken to the streets. Last fortnight, Karachi witnessed the remarkable spectacle of more than a hundred of its best-known businessmen walking the streets, protesting against lawlessness. The message, as a Chamber of Commerce spokesman says, is: "We've gone down under. Punjab is going. Unless we wake up, the entire country will follow." Adds Sumar, whose father migrated from Bombay during Partition: "We made one move in 1947. If we have to make another one, it will be out of Pakistan."

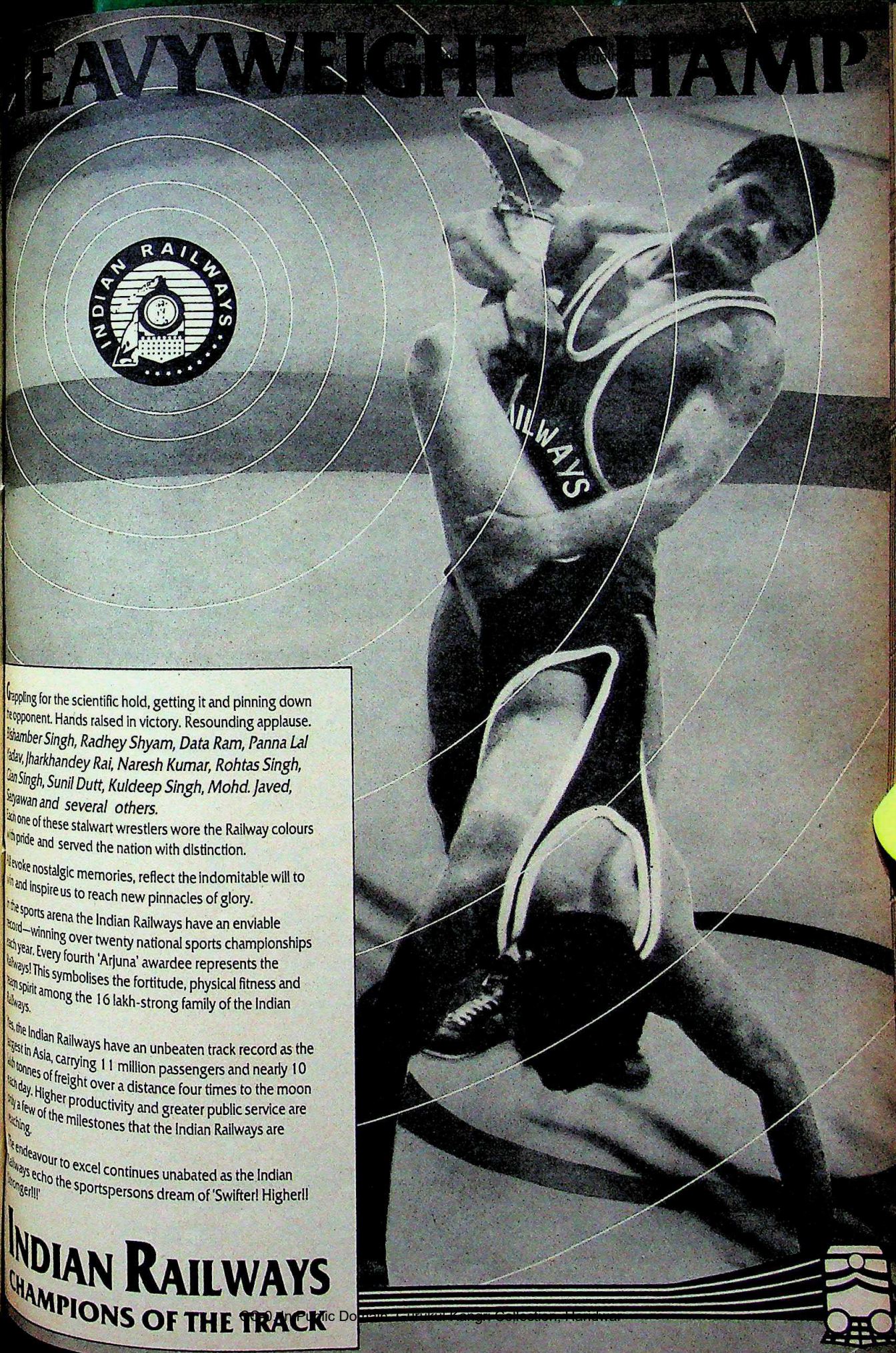
Desperation has even led to some organisations demanding intervention by the President against the ineffective Pakistan People's Party (PPP) Government—a worrisome prospect for Benazir in the only province where her party swept the polls. But what her partymen and many other democratic leaders fear most is not presidential intervention. "If the Kashmir problem had not arisen, the army would have walked in by now. They may still do it," warns Makhdoom Khaliquzzaman, a senior PPP leader.

Predictably, hardpressed officials blame the trouble on Indian interference. But even Benazir has taken a remarkably mature posture, stating that even foreign interference would not have worked without the kind of "urban decay" that exists in Karachi, creating an army of lumpens. Armed with Kalashnikovs and financed by drug money, it has become a veritable instrument of anarchy.

—SHEKHAR GUPTA in Karachi

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMP



Grappling for the scientific hold, getting it and pinning down the opponent. Hands raised in victory. Resounding applause. *Bishamber Singh, Radhey Shyam, Data Ram, Panna Lal Yadav, Jharkhandey Rai, Naresh Kumar, Rohtas Singh, Gian Singh, Sunil Dutt, Kuldeep Singh, Mohd. Javed, Satyawan and several others.*

Each one of these stalwart wrestlers wore the Railway colours with pride and served the nation with distinction.

All evoke nostalgic memories, reflect the indomitable will to win and inspire us to reach new pinnacles of glory.

In the sports arena the Indian Railways have an enviable record—winning over twenty national sports championships each year. Every fourth 'Arjuna' awardee represents the Railways! This symbolises the fortitude, physical fitness and team spirit among the 16 lakh-strong family of the Indian Railways.

Yes, the Indian Railways have an unbeaten track record as the largest in Asia, carrying 11 million passengers and nearly 10 lakh tonnes of freight over a distance four times to the moon each day. Higher productivity and greater public service are only a few of the milestones that the Indian Railways are reaching.

The endeavour to excel continues unabated as the Indian Railways echo the sportspersons dream of 'Swifter! Higher!! Stronger!!!'

INDIAN RAILWAYS

CHAMPIONS OF THE TRACK

CC-0. In Public Domain. Panini Kanya Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The only VCP

with Auto Head cleaning System

HQ VHS PAL

Also available VT-P75 with recording facility

P70 from HITACHI

Over 60% of the videos sent for servicing require only head-cleaning. Conventional head-cleaning materials are normally abrasive and can damage the video head.

Now the VT-P70 makes all that a thing of the past. **Hitachi's original head cleaning system automatically cleans dust and dirt from the video head every time you load and unload the tape.** This leaves the head spotlessly clean for a dramatically improved picture. And for dirt-heavy conditions, the head can be cleaned manually as well by pressing a button.

- Digital tracking
- Auto play, auto operate-on, auto rewind shut-off
- Endless play
- Visual search, still play, slow effect
- Infrared wireless remote control

The Auto Head Cleaning System comes with a special **5 year** *guarantee from Eros Electricals.*

AUTO HEAD CLEANING SYSTEM

No VCP is complete without Auto Head Cleaning System – anymore!

For information only

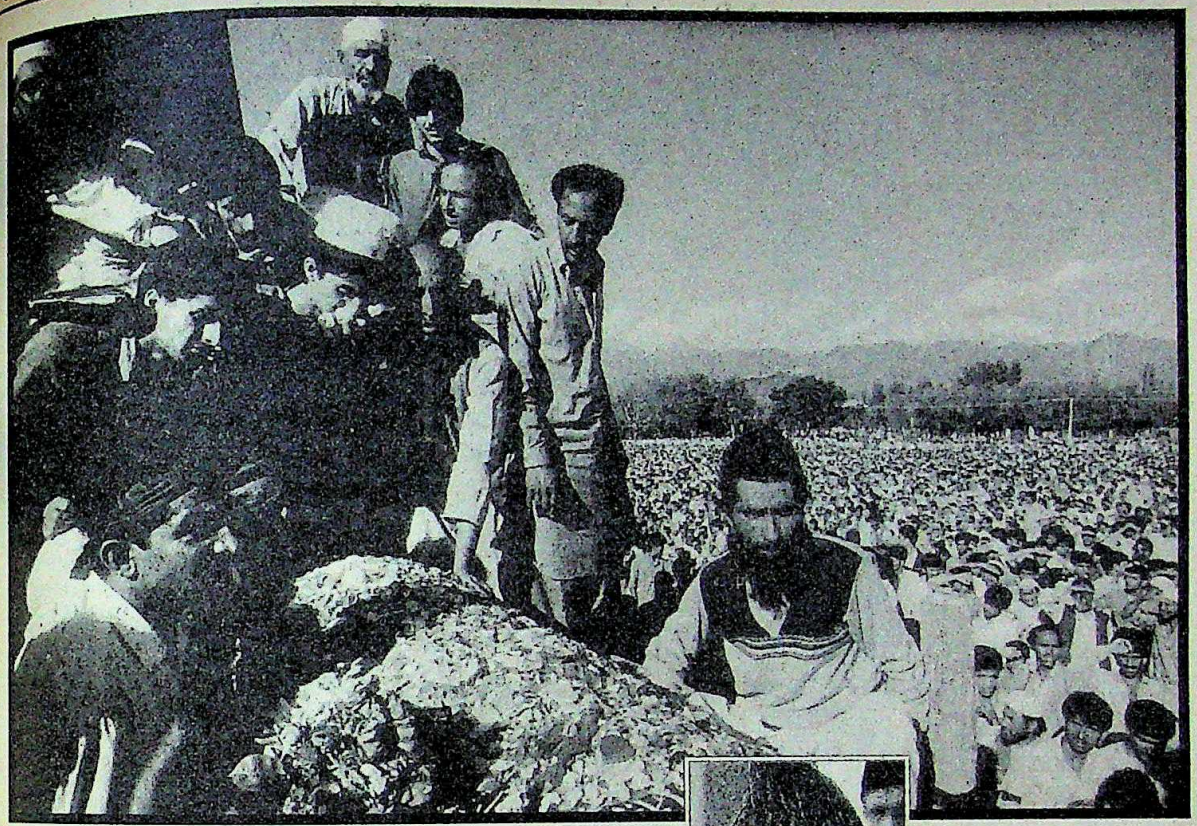
25AIP70.MS-4

HITACHI

EROS ELECTRICALS
P.O. Box 1184, Dubai (UAE) Tel: 666216 Telex: 45902 BADRI EM Fax: 660745
Showroom: Deira 222971 Bur Dubai 521494 Abu Dhabi 336432 Sharjah 356067

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

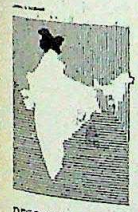


The funeral procession; (inset) the Mirwaiz

JAMMU & KASHMIR

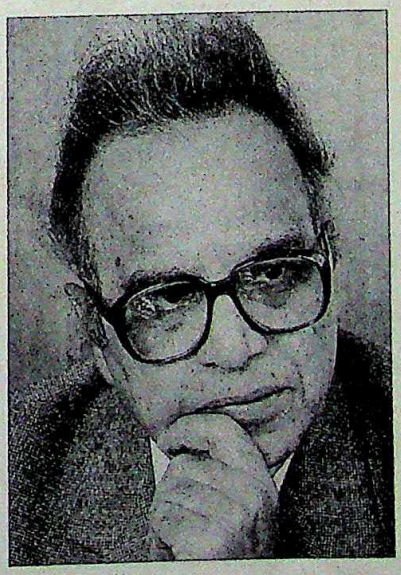
Paying the Price

Mirwaiz fiasco sparks off a change of guard



THE denouement was inevitable. After the furore that erupted in Kashmir and in Parliament over the police firing in Srinagar that left 57 dead, the pressure on Prime Minister V.P. Singh to recall governor Jagmohan took a decisive turn. Displeasure against the governor had in any case been mounting. The Government claims that Jagmohan had ignored its advise to arrest Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, and later, after his killing, to avoid any kind of confrontation with the militants. Jagmohan's supporters, however, deny this and say that his removal is nothing short of a betrayal and the sacrificing of a man who could emerge as a powerful national political force on his own if he had succeeded in pacifying the troubled valley.

Whatever the truth, the fact is that with the Left parties, the Congress(I) and even some Janata Dal MPs making an issue out of Jagmohan's continuance, a scapegoat had to be found. The police firing and the killing of the Mirwaiz provided the perfect handle for Jagmohan's detractors to pressurise V.P. Singh to replace the governor.



Jagmohan: a controversial tenure

However, the choice of Jagmohan's replacement clearly showed that the increasing gravity of the situation in the valley was not lost on the Government, nor had the battle to regain control of the law and order situation been scaled down. G.C. 'Gary' Saksena, the new governor, has the required background for the insurgent situation prevailing: besides being a former chief of RAW, he has been security advisor to two successive prime ministers, Rajiv Gandhi and V.P. Singh. He will need to make the most of this experience—for the killing of the Mirwaiz and the events that have followed it have severely set back the Government's normalisation efforts.

Suddenly, in the beginning of May, it had seemed as if things were changing for the better. Schools had begun to report increased attendance. About 250 trucks were travelling daily from Jammu to Srinagar with foodstuffs and other essential commodities. Violence in the larger cities was on the decline. And day curfew had been lifted. True, the militants still imposed 'civil curfew', but the signs were clear: after

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

a troubled winter, the administration had managed to get a grip on the situation.

Three brief hours on May 21 undid all that. That morning three youths came to the Mirwaiz's residence and were ushered into his study by the gardener, Ghulam Qadir, 67. Five minutes later, Qadir heard the sound of gunfire and saw the youths run out. The frail man grappled with one and shouted for help. But it was too late. Inside, the 44-year-old Mirwaiz lay riddled with bullets.

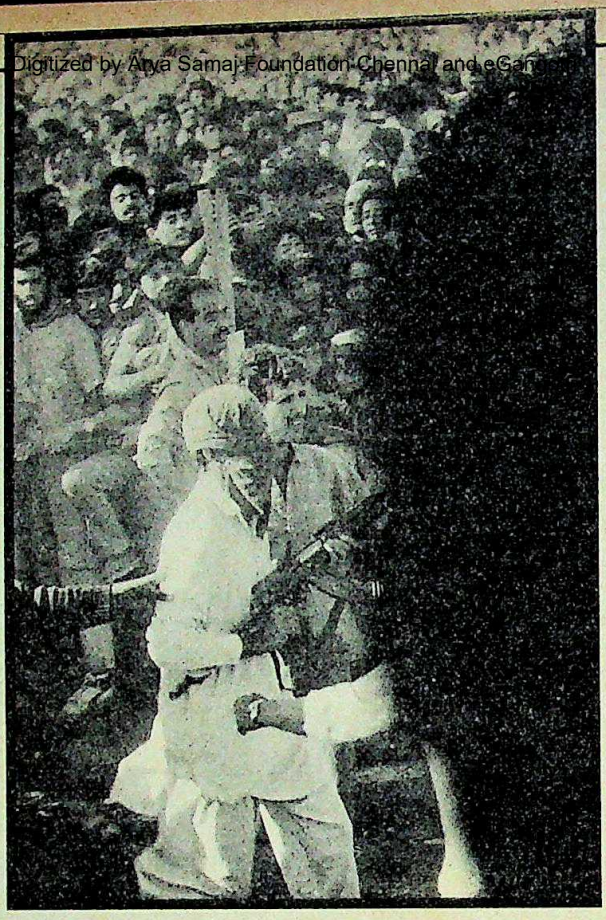
Subsequent events overwhelmed the state administration. By the time, the Mirwaiz was taken to the Shoura Medical Institute, a restive crowd of about 4,000 had collected there. By the time the news reached Jagmohan, matters had gone out of control.

The crowd forcibly took the body of the Mirwaiz, and wound its way through the downtown areas of Srinagar where curfew had been imposed. On its route lay the Islamia College, which houses the headquarters of the 69th battalion of the CRPF. Seeing a mob heading towards them, the security forces panicked and opened fire, killing 57. The CRPF men claim they retaliated only after militants in the crowd fired on them.

Whatever the truth, the CRPF firing was a heaven-sent opportunity for the militants, who had been reeling under a 10-week-long crackdown. They had always criticised the Mirwaiz for not coming out openly for secession from India and had differences with his one-lakh-strong Awami Action Committee. In fact, top intelligence sources say that the killing was carried out under instructions from Islamabad to coincide with the visit to the subcontinent of the US delegation led by Robert Gates, deputy national security adviser.

Nevertheless, the militants managed to put the blame for the killing on Jagmohan. A defensive administration later pulled out forces from the Mirwaiz's constituency in downtown Srinagar. But by then the damage had been done.

That was clear the next day. On the sprawling lawns of the Idgah, more than two lakh people gathered for prayers. Amid recitations from the Koran, militants emptied magazine after magazine of their Kalashnikovs into the air while young girls jostled for a chance to touch them, and children scurried about collecting the spent bullets.



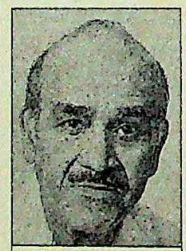
Militants brandish Kalashnikovs

Near the graves of those killed in the police firing, militants lobbed hand grenades in a graphic salute to their 'martyrs'. One fired a small machine gun at an army helicopter hovering above. And as the body of the Mirwaiz was lowered into the grave, the crowd roared with one voice: *"Maulana ka kya irshad? Al jehad, al jehad"* (What did the Maulana call for? Holy war, holy war) and *"Maulana ka katil kaun? Jagmohan, Jagmohan"* (Who killed the Maulana? Jagmohan, Jagmohan.) The divide between the administration and the people couldn't have been more complete.

In hindsight, the administration seems to have blundered. For one, the attack on the Mirwaiz was not unexpected. In a situation where the fundamentalist Jamaat-e-Islami had been seeking to grab his following, he had survived by walking a tightrope. On one hand, he hob-nobbed with the JKLF, on the other, he called for popular rule and had a line open to Minister for Kashmir Affairs George Fernandes. Senior officials say he was the only sobering element among the fundamentalists. With his death, the Jamaat can run riot.

Though the Mirwaiz was on the militant hit-list, he had refused police protection. The police now concede that they should have detailed plainclothesmen for his security. Apart from that, the second blunder was the shooting by the CRPF. By opening fire, the security forces played right into the hands of the militants who had long been trying to provoke them to shoot at innocent crowds. The sensible policy would have been to withdraw all security forces and let the crowd pass by unhindered. But there was no senior official

FERNANDES



SAKSENA

MUFTI MOHD

Saksena will have to walk a tightrope in his dealings with George Fernandes and Mufti Mohammed Sayeed.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

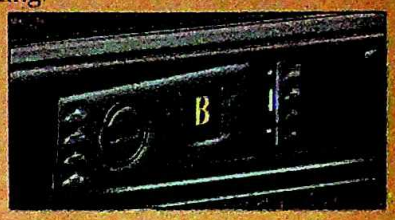
One glance at the Odyssey line of luggage and you'll know it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. The reasons aren't hard to find.

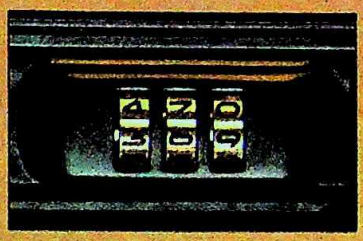
Like the best luggage the world over, Odyssey is made from ABS.

A revolutionary new material that's incredibly tough yet amazingly light. And good looking.

No other luggage is so beautiful.

With its neat, dignified lines. Its understated elegance. The sleek contours. The luxurious finish. All of which give it that distinguished look.





You'll love those classy little touches

Like the sophisticated locking system. Soft eject locks that open silently. Plus, a centre combination lock for total security. And the matt finish frame.

Beautiful outside. Even more beautiful inside.

Open an Odyssey and you'll find... a rich suede lining. A divider for separating your papers from your clothes. A handy tie-rod. An elastic strap to hold things in place. Exclusive features designed with your needs in mind.

Odyssey. Luggage so exclusive, nothing else comes even close to it.

Come see our beautiful range of suitcases and briefcases.

Is this tag on your bag?

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MANUFACTURER-EXPORTER

Fortunately, the global market isn't as limiting as this sheet of paper.

Not when you're the Indian face of Unilever, one of the world's consumer-goods giants.

The Unilever Export Group in India. The nation's largest manufacturer-exporter.

The totality of Hindustan Lever Limited, Lipton India Limited, Brooke Bond India Limited, Pond's India Limited, and initiative unlimited.

With exports that brought in Rs.230 crores, in 1989.

Quality products. From blended and packaged tea, canned mushrooms, branded rice, and seafood, to cosmetics, personal-care products, garments, and footwear.

From 20 export-dedicated factories. And 70 export managers who define their business in two little words.

Value Addition.

THE UNILEVER EXPORT GROUP IN INDIA

Hindustan Lever Limited
Lipton India Limited
Brooke Bond India Limited
Pond's India Limited

THE LARGEST

CC-0. Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

on the spot to take that decision.

Jagmohan tried to appear unfazed. He asserted the setback would be short-lived, and would not deter the crackdown on the militants. "I am confident we will soon expose those behind the killing of the Maulvi," he declared. But even while he displayed such confidence he was on the horns of a dilemma. Not to act against the security-men involved in the firing would mean losing public sympathy. And holding them to account would mean risking lowering of the forces' morale just when it was beginning to buoy.

This in a nutshell also sums up the crisis of Gary Saksena. In a situation where intelligence gathering and processing is of the utmost importance, Saksena's credentials are just right. The soft-spoken, media-shy officer played a stellar role in organising intelligence in the Bangladesh sector during the 1971 war, and was instrumental in raising the elite Special Protection Group. With a reputation for being a behind-the-scenes worker, he is the prime minister's personal choice for this critical assignment.

But though his background may make him the right man for handling the law and order situation in the trouble-torn valley, he will also need the skill of a consummate politician to walk the tightrope between state repression and militant anarchy. In this the Centre would also do well to desist from its multi-pronged policy on Kashmir, and refrain from handicapping Saksena with confusing advise as it did Jagmohan. The conflicting signals from Fernandes and Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, who has his own compulsions in Kashmir politics, bedevil the Centre's efforts to tackle the problem. Moreover, Jagmohan had managed to build a team and raise the morale of the administration. Saksena will have to start from scratch.

Saksena will also be wise to learn from Jagmohan's experience that an indiscriminatory crackdown can prove quite counter-productive, alienating the people, and finally increasing the dimensions of the problem. And with international attention, of governments and human rights bodies, focussed on Kashmir, he will have to ensure that not only is his regime non-repressive, but is also seen to be so. Importantly, he will have to do all this even while maintaining relentless pressure on the militants. Gary Saksena, clearly, has a long and crucial tightrope walk ahead of him.

—PANKAJ PACHAURI in Srinagar

Pied Piper

INSIDE EYE BY INDERJIT BADHWAR

IT was just wonderful, lap-up stuff for the lampoonists, that recent Congress(I) convention on communalism, director, producer, star, Rajiv Gandhi. "Twinkle, twinkle little star, Rajiv Gandhi superstar," his fans bleated in unison. Before that was the morality play, Rajiv's 12-hour fast at Rajghat. How would it end? Baked Alaska? Hamburger, but go easy on the mustard while I slip into my velvet bathroom slippers? Rajiv Gandhi: the ultimate political method-actor. Keeping the sanctimonious upper lip.

Enemies and patriots laughed at him. Arm-chair Gandhians fulminated against the hypocrisy of it all. The sacrilege. The *chutzpah*. This...this high-flying political Icarus with his antics, his gimmicks, his chorus-boy smile, (can't you just see him singing Christmas carols all dressed in white?) This...this foreign transplant of a politician, this yuppie-eyed dreamboat who led his party to unparalleled disaster, tore it to shreds to protect his friends. This...this...surely the party's going to chuck him.

The analytical stream of consciousness of the Rajiv's-had-it school of thought. Oh, Rajiv? Well, now it's only a matter of time.

Forget it.

You should have visited Rajiv's fast-parade. Young Turks, old Greeks, have-beens, would-bes, they were all there. Rajiv gave us a fast and everybody came. And they courted him in the fashion they did Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi.

Illustration by PRANAB DUTTA

Rajivji's survival has been the rock at which the salon-wisdom of the theory class has foundered. He was too 21st century, my dear, the Congress(I) culture just couldn't accept that. But, darling, how can they ever have related to a man in those sunshades and Gucci shoes? Premature past tense. Even the underclass in his party does not have that perception of Rajiv. Rajiv cares more about khadi than they do. A Sewa Dal worker told me the other day: "But Rajivji looks so much more relaxed in jeans." The underclass is itself sartorially mobile. They want to be like Rajiv.

As former Sanjay Gandhi streetfighter Kamal Nath says: "V.P. Singh's image is not exactly launching ships. The talk now is, maybe poor Rajiv was better. As far as I'm concerned, he's more marketable."

Precisely. Rajiv's hold over his party is that his is a name that doesn't have to be marketed. For starters, Rajiv is casteless. He is not considered part of the Brahmin lobby as say, N.D. Tiwari. His partymen dote on his international image. Party post-seekers are no longer a threat. And the Pawar-Patil-Reddy doesn't amount to much because the southern MPs accept only Rajiv's leadership. More bad news for his detractors: partymen have forgiven him. He's learning, they say. He's not really a loser, goes the revisionist thinking, because whatever votes the party got were because of him. Even those who want to dump him don't know how. The party has forgotten how to struggle for power from within. They're awaiting Bofors.

Meantime, they say, *khandani to hai* (he's our only pedigreed leader). Their pilot hasn't crashed, they say, he's touched down for repairs. He's still their great white god, the great white hope, their pied piper of millenium.

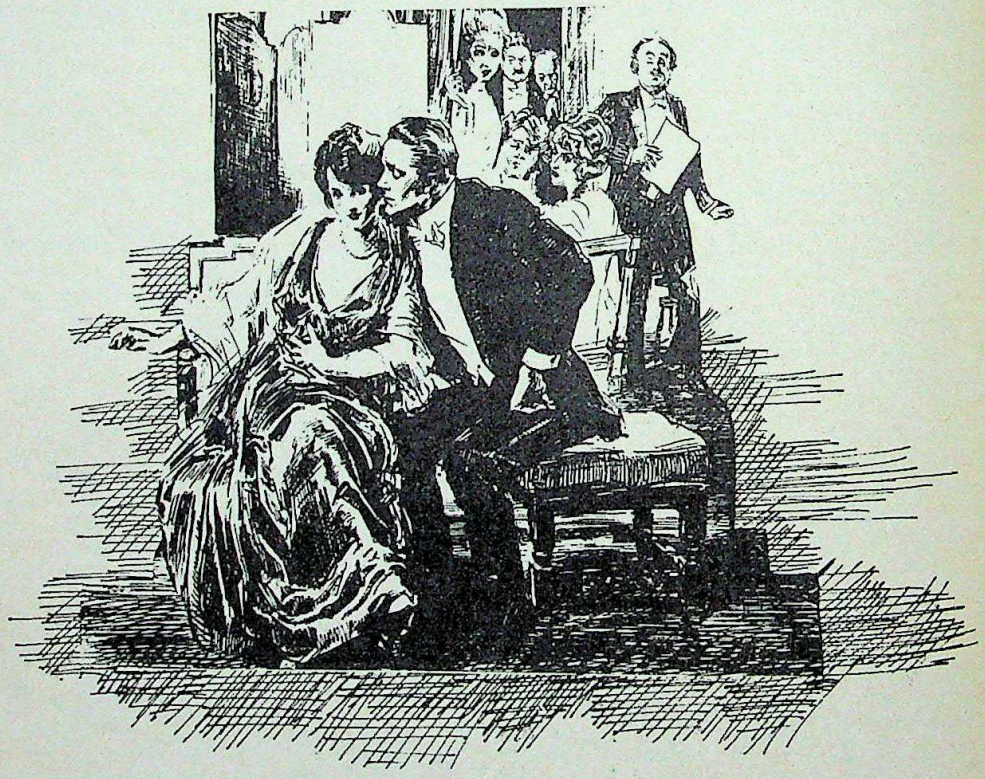
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF

SIMPLE PLEASURES IN LINGERING SHADOWS

AND BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS WELL SPENT



FOR LADIES

• *The Benaras, Satya Paul, The Indus & Neo-Classique: SARIÉS*

• *Kin Khaab: SILKS* • *Rabia: DRESS FABRICS* • *Florence & Autumn Leaf: SUITS*

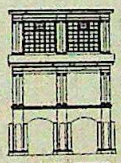
• *Symphony: MIX & MATCH* • *Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Cashmere: SHAWLS*

Satish Sud Graphics/3

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HANDLOOM EMPORIUM RECREATES
THE BYGONE ERA OF LEISURED LIVING
IN ITS REDESIGNED SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT WITH
THE FINEST LINE OF MERCHANDISING
IN FABRICS, SARIÉS AND READY TO WEAR CLOTHES
DESIGNED & PRODUCED
BY THE MOST REPUTED NAMES
IN THE COUNTRY
TO THE EXACTING STANDARDS OF
HERITAGE



HERITAGE™
AT
handloom emporium

G-XII HANDLOOM EMPORIUM MANOR
SHOPPING PLAZA SOUTH EXTENSION-I NEW DELHI-110 049 INDIA
TLFN: (011) 62-3208, 61-7050, 62-5099

FOR GENTS

• *Van Gogh: SUITINGS* • *Michelangelo: READYMADES* • *Here & Now: ACCESSORIES*
• *Cézanne: JACKETS & TROUSERS* • *Exclusif Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Marcopolo: GIFTABLES*

FOR CHILDREN

• *Roots: READY TO WEAR*

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul

 Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ORISSA

Crack Down

Raids spark controversy

LAST month, after initial dilly-dallying, Chief Minister Biju Patnaik finally acted upon one of his most popular poll pledges: that he would confiscate the illegal assets of his predecessor J.B. Patnaik and other Congressmen. In a three-day operation starting May 9, vigilance sleuths swooped down on residences and business establishments owned by J.B. Patnaik and 11 of his former cabinet colleagues.

The haul justified the raids. Though it will be months before the list of seizures is finalised, there is enough evidence to indicate that Congressmen were making plenty of hay while their political sun shone. J.B. Patnaik was a poorly paid journalist in an Oriya daily before he launched his political career, but today he owns three houses, including a flat in Delhi. Besides, a hefty bank account and evidence of several benami transactions have reportedly been secured. The vigilance staff claim to have already unearthed assets worth Rs 10 lakh. Remarks a senior officer: "If the case is pursued properly, Patnaik would be in serious trouble."

The former chief minister of course is trying to fight back. "It is a political vendetta," he wrote in a terse letter to Prime Minister V.P. Singh. *Sun Times* and *Sambad*—the two newspapers owned and edited by J.B. Patnaik's son-in-law Soumya Patnaik—made the raids on the newspaper premises out to be an attempt to gag the press. Soumya didn't bring out the newspapers for two days, and on the third, front-paged blank editorials were carried in protest.

If such efforts came to nothing, it was because of the public indignation over the seizures. The biggest haul was made at the residence of former minister Habibullah Khan—Rs 7 lakh in cash and gold ornaments worth Rs 4 lakh. He was also found to have a bank deposit of Rs 60,000, a Maruti and an Ambassador, while documents revealed he had more assets—including a house—tucked away.

Former finance minister Jugal Kishore Patnaik had cash worth Rs 36,000 and gold worth Rs 1 lakh at his residence, besides Rs 2 lakh in two bank accounts. His other investments ran into lakhs and he owned a number of houses. The former civil supplies minister, Harihar Karan, was found to have Rs 45,000 in cash, a palatial house with marble fittings in Bhubaneswar, several cars, a bank deposit of Rs 2 lakh, and gold ornaments worth Rs 2.5 lakh. Rajya Sabha member K.C. Lenka had a bank deposit of Rs 1.28 lakh besides Rs 95,000 in his savings account, gold worth Rs 1 lakh, and a plot of land worth Rs 1 lakh.

Still, many Janata Dal leaders believe the raids were ill-timed and ill-planned. While some maintain that by not ordering the raids as soon as he came to power, Biju Patnaik gave Congressmen time to cover their tracks, others insist the raids were carried out in haste, without the necessary back-up investigations. Complained one Janata Dal leader: "Only lakhs have been seized when each raid should have yielded crores."

But Biju Patnaik now appears to mean business. He recently announced that special courts would be set up to try cases relating to illegal assets; and a law enacted empowering confiscation of assets and cash unearthed in raids.

One reason for Biju Patnaik ordering the raids now could be his desire to divert attention from the increasing number of scandals that his own partymen are involved in. The Janata Dal has been in power for too short a time for its members to be facing corruption charges. But other embarrassing charges have been made. Ajit Das, the Janata Dal MLA from Kalahandi and brother of the Union Deputy Minister for Youth Affairs and Sports Bhakta Charan Das, has been booked for molesting a woman. Another party MLA, Prasanna Patnaik, has been charged with attempting sodomy. And recently, Pradip Maharathi, deputy chief whip of the Janata Dal Legislature Party, was found guilty of forgery—though the court refrained from sentencing him in view of his high public office. Instead of censuring Maharathi, Biju Patnaik nominated him to an assembly house committee on anti-corruption.

That illustrates Biju Patnaik's problem. The raids have boosted his image. But the more difficult part lies ahead—ensuring that his own partymen resist the urge to emulate their predecessors. —RUBEN BANERJEE

J.B. Patnaik (left); and Biju Patnaik: on the war path

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

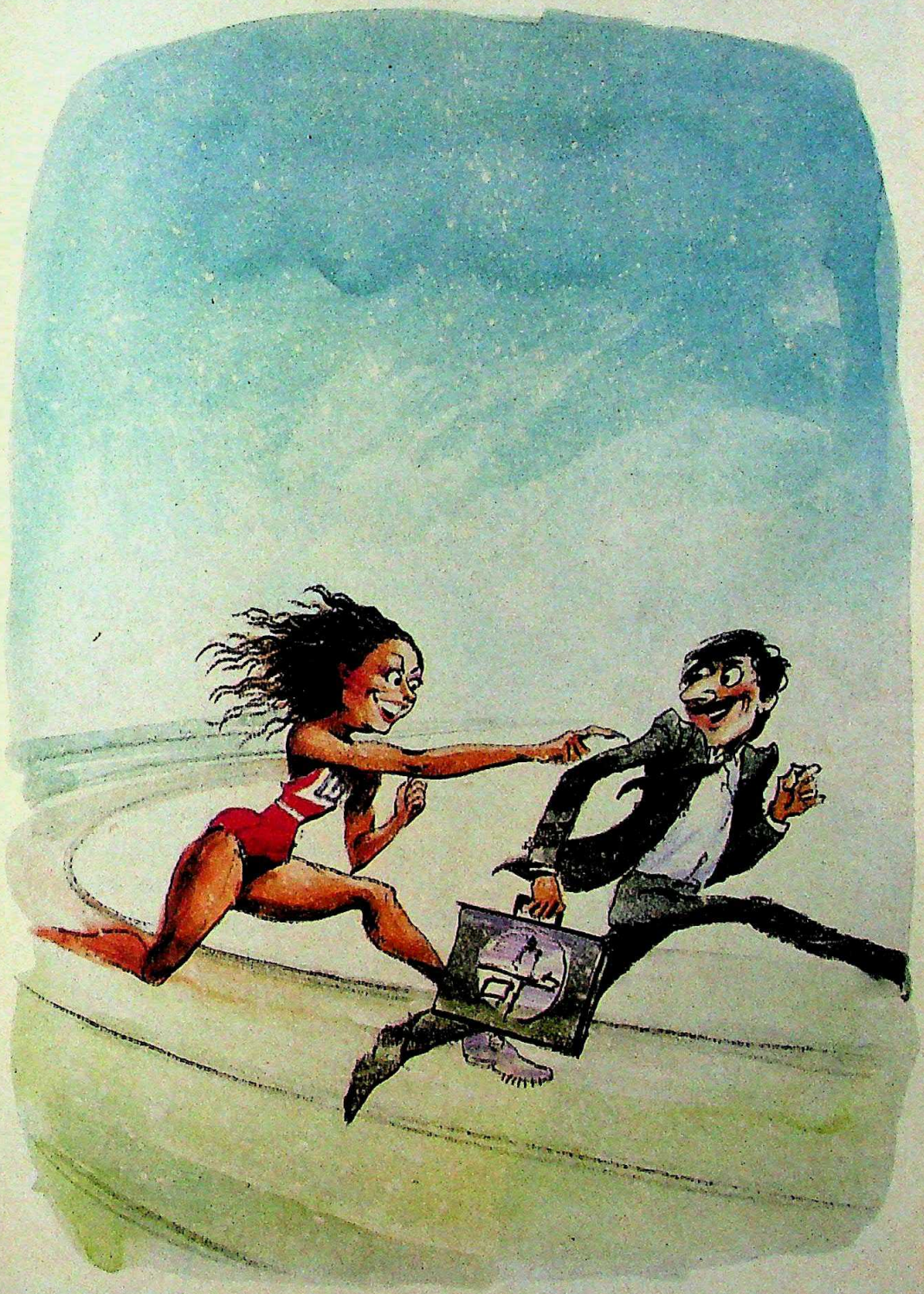
The raids proved that Congressmen were making plenty of hay while their political sun shone.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What did Flo Jo of the U.S. say to the Skypak Man?

"And you thought, you were the only one who could smile while moving at record-breaking speed?"



We'll deliver. Wherever on earth. SKYPAK The worldwide couriers.

Skypak House, Off M. Vassanji Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Bombay 400 059.

Avenues SC 568 90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

When a company records a phenomenal
1439% growth in turnover in just 8 years
When it consistently declares a
dividend of over 20%
When it won't settle for anything less
than the best in technology

This is the only wa

ARIHANT NOW

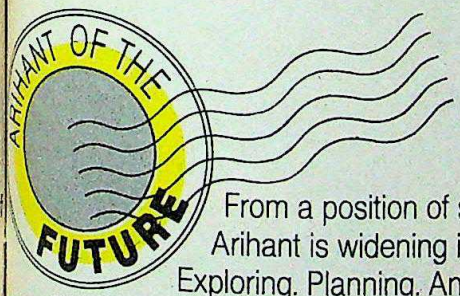
Multi-faceted. Successful.
With a passion for excellence.
That's Arihant today. Consistently turning each area of operation into a high profit centre, where products of the best technologies take shape.

OSWAL PREMIUM SUITINGS
PRODUCT OF ARIHANT FABRICS LTD

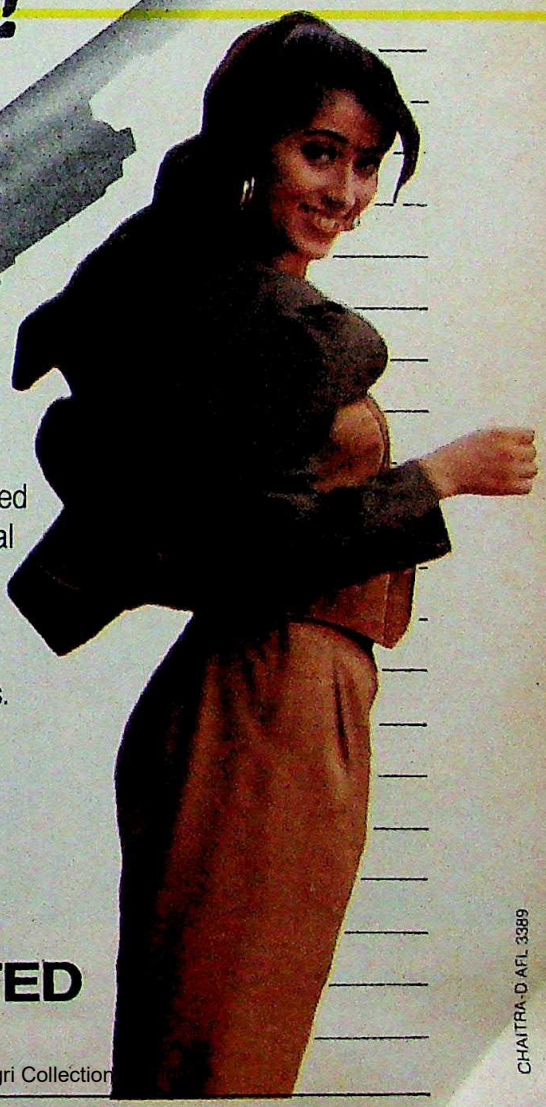
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

lway for it to go!



From a position of strength,
Arihant is widening its perspective.
Exploring. Planning. And moving fast and
sure to make things happen.
modern Ring Spinning project. Import of additional 24 advanced
Sulzer Projectile Weaving Machines. Installation of an additional
6,000 spindles to double capacity at a Worsted Spinning unit
hat includes a Wool Combing plant.
All part of a major expansion programme
Arihant is giving shape to, with a capital outlay of Rs. 64 crores.
Arihant is shaping a success story with a difference.
And it's time you became a part of it.



ARIHANT FABRICS LIMITED

■ Premium Suitings ■ Worsted Yarn ■ Texturised & Twisted
Polyester Yarn ■ Dynamism ■ Success

CHAITRA-D AFL 3389

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

We bid farewell before the first glow of youth has faded.

Every few years, we make a point of replacing our aircraft with the latest the industry has to offer. In fact, our fleet is known to be the youngest and most modern of any major airline in the world. But perhaps that's not what you'll best remember us for.

The youngest, most modern fleet across 5 continents.

8S90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

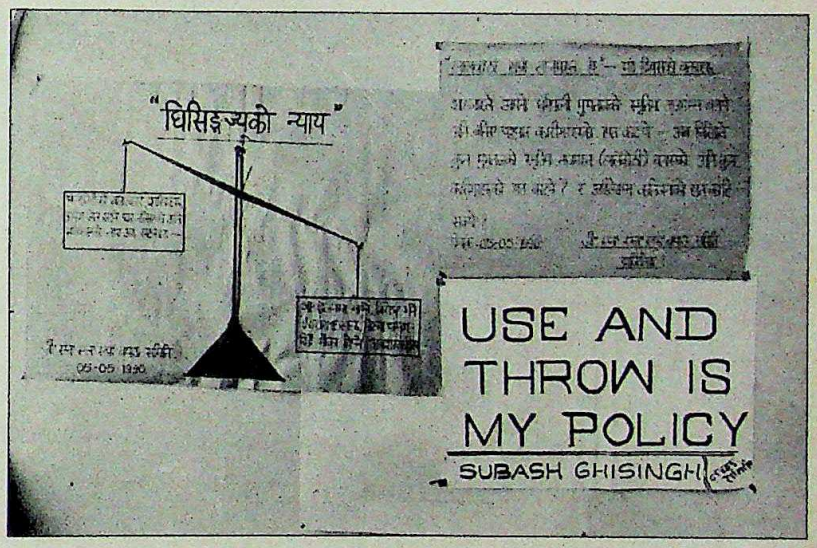
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SUBHAS GHISING

Falling Stock

Anger against GNLF chief

Photographs by SAIBAL DAS



Ghising at Lalkuthi (top); and anti-Ghising posters in Darjeeling

MANY revolutionaries have successfully metamorphosed into effective rulers. Subhas Ghising is clearly not one of them. Just a year and a half after he took over as chairman of the Darjeeling Gorkha Hill Council, his political stock is virtually at rock bottom. Two months ago, Ghising had to flee from an irate mob at Sukhia-Pokhari where a fire had destroyed scores of huts. Since late April, posters in Darjeeling have exhorted people to put an end to Ghising's "dictatorship". The All-India Gorkha League recently held a public meeting at Chowkbazar at which it reiterated its demand for a separate Gorkhaland. And in the first week of May, dissidents of the Gorkha National Liberation Front (GNLF) held a press conference to criticise Ghising's style of functioning.

Complaints against his failure to fulfil his promises are growing into a torrent. Among them: he has failed to get a wage hike for workers in tea plantations; he has not succeeded in getting Nepali included in the eighth schedule of the Indian Constitution; and the Hill Council has not alleviated the problems of water and power shortage in the hills.

Ghising has his explanations. The West Bengal Government, he says, has not paid the Rs 24 crore it promised the Hill Council last year. He goes on to say that if he chose to speak out, it would be the end of the Hill Council. "As chairman I am keeping myself aloof from the agitation but I can no longer restrain my followers," he warns.

Some of Ghising's complaints are legitimate. The Hill Council has no control over power supply. It suffers from an acute shortage of technically qualified staff, because few state government employees are willing to go to the council on deputation. "We have to kill many birds with one stone," Ghising declares. "We have no funds and no staff, yet the work must go on."

Also, there is considerable confusion in sectors supposedly handed over to the council. One example: in Calcutta, a deputy director of West Bengal Tourism says no promotional advertisements were issued this year because "tourism is now being handled by the Hill Council". In Darjeeling, a peeved Hill Council official retorts: "This is not a separate state as yet. How can Calcutta wash its hands of us?" At the tourist information centre, employees have to deal with two assistant directors. One has been sent by the West Bengal Government, the other by the Hill Council, and their powers haven't been clearly defined. The result is confusion all around.

But some of Ghising's complaints may be unjustified. For instance, he says that while the Planning Commission had cleared Rs 60 crore for the Hill Council, he has so far received only about Rs 37 crore. Sources in the West Bengal Government say that if the money hasn't been allocated so far, it's because of the Hill Council's failure to follow financial rules and furnish utilisation certificates. Ghising's explanation: "I will not give utilisation certificates until I physically verify the work. I don't believe in paperwork."

To take one example of Ghising's distaste for paperwork, tenders were not invited for several work contracts. He chose to award the contracts himself. Alleges Surya Narayan Pradhan, a prominent dissident who has floated the Save GNLF Committee: "The Hill Council is turning millionaires into billionaires." Ghising takes refuge behind the emergency powers given to him under Section 46 of the Hill Council Act. "People did the job faster and with greater devotion and at lower cost," he insists.

Few people in Darjeeling buy these explanations. The problem, they say, lies in Ghising's megalomania. The prime manifestation is the extravagant renovation of Lalkuthi, the sprawling erstwhile bungalow of the Coochbehar estate, that he now uses as his office. Ghising's own room is almost as large as the conference hall on the ground floor. Inside, marble floors have been laid, pillars of black stone brought from

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

 Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Rajasthan and murals painted by an artist from Calcutta. Wall-to-wall carpeting, silverware and chandeliers complete the lavish picture. Outside, feverish work is on to add to the pavilions, clean up the fish ponds and lay out two artificial waterfalls.

Local residents are strictly forbidden from entering the bungalow. But in the morning, tourists are allowed in, Ghising himself being the great attraction. "Yesterday, as many as 1,400 tourists visited Lalkuthi," he says gleefully. And gravely adds that he will himself give the finishing touches to the mural in his room. He dismisses criticism about his extravagance. The renovation, he says, was ordered by the former district magistrate. "And in any case, Rs 85 lakh was spent, not Rs 3 crore as reported in the press."

Ghising's political career, unfortunately for him, won't be decided by tourists but by locals, and they aren't impressed by the renovated Lalkuthi. Their demands are more mundane—jobs and regular water and power supply—and more difficult to fulfil.

The longer they remain unfulfilled, the more dangerous the portents grow for Ghising. His position as unquestioned leader of the hills is under threat. What that means is that the agitation for Gorkhaland could revive. As in the recent one, Ghising would be responsible. But in a different sort of way. —UTTAM SENGUPTA

BOTTOMLINE BY D. BUNKER

Who's Who

WHO started the ball rolling? Nobody quite knows. Some say V.P. Singh. Others blame Bhure Lal. Whatever the reason, WHO *(Witch Hunt Organisation) was clearly an idea who's time had come. Established last fortnight by a group of 'like-minded' citizens,* WHO *(despite the healthy assets of its members, it is not to be confused with the World Health Organisation) bands together a group of people who feel they are being victimised by the present Government for their past associations. Last week,* WHO *held its first meeting to hammer out a collective counter-strategy. Here's how it went.*

Amitabh Bachchan: Who's in charge here? We can't have an organisation and an effective strategy without some sort of official structure. So who will be sitting on WHO's head?

Satish Sharma: Who else? I am used to giving orders and planning strategy. Look at what I achieved in Punjab and Amethi. Coming from a value-based party, I am also committed to the principle of one-man, one-post. I hereby elect myself unopposed.

Ajitabh Bachchan: I think we should have a proper election. After all, between Amitabh and me, we carry the most votes here.

Gopichand Hinduja: Says who? This Government is after us as well. That makes four of us against two of you. We have also managed to get some proxy votes.

Satish: From who?

Hinduja: Win Chadha. Since he doesn't have a passport, he has given us his vote of confidence. Now that's over with, let's get down to business which is what we Hindujas are best at. Who's in the most trouble?

Amitabh: Me, of course. They are treating me like a coolie and claiming I got paid a shahenshah's ransom for my movies. It's all very taxing.

Ajitabh: And what about our Mehrauli farmhouses? We bought them dirt cheap. The prices only went up after Rajiv moved in next door. Who can blame us for that? The cases they have filed are as full of holes as Swiss cheese. Here, take a look, I've brought some with me.

Satish: No thanks. I prefer Italian myself.

Chandraswami: There couldn't be anything holier than my case. I have a halo of a lot to lose. You chaps may just lose a flat or two. Look at what I have to lose? Khashoggi's yacht, Liz Taylor's company, diamond necklaces, Pamella Bordes....

Hinduja: That is nothing compared to the trouble we can get into. We used to be smelling like roses. Now, with all this stuff about Tulip and Lotus, our name is mud. It's as bad as the Gang of Four. I say our case should be taken up first by WHO.

Satish: Who has more to lose than me? This Government is even accusing me of being involved in attempted murder. If anybody needs to be bailed out FIRst, it's me. I demand that my case be given top priority. After all, that was always the case during Rajiv's time.

Amitabh: I don't want to make any tall claims. But I must be more important than you. They are wanting to arrest you. I have been asking them to arrest me for months but they have refused. It just shows my case is stronger than yours.

Hinduja: Gentlemen, this is getting us nowhere. I suggest we compile a proper list of all members of WHO and the charges against each one. We can then decide who's case gets priority.

Ajitabh: Good idea. What will it be called?

Hinduja: Who's Who of course.

Cartoon by JAYANTO

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BLUE CHIP.
Expensive looking, but highly affordable.

Don't pay in Dollars

BLUE CHIP
SHIRTS-TROUSERS

A quality product from
VIP

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CARRIER AIR CONDITIONERS COO
THE QUESTION IS HOW ELEGANTLY

The answer is more elegantly than anybody else can.

Because at Carrier Aircon we've just launched 'Mistral' —the finest air conditioner money can buy in India. Based on models recently introduced in USA, Australia and the Far East.

Take a closer look at what the Mistral offers.

The Mistral is the quietest air conditioner in India virtue of Carrier Aircon's precision engineering.

A programmable timer switches it on or off at pre- hours. Swivelling louvres deliver air precisely where want. A slide-in, slide-out filter makes routine mainten effortless. A superb, power-saving compressor could s

Contract CA 21946

THE STORY OF CARRIER IS THE STO

Delhi : Ph : 676285, 677392. Bombay : Ph : 2042091, 2042093. Madras : Ph 861382, 861391. Calcutta : Ph : 749300, 750492. Bangalore : Ph : 264081. Hyderab

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HE QUEEN ELIZABETH II ELEGANTLY, AN THEY COOL YOUR BEDROOM?

The luxury liner Queen Elizabeth II.

New Mistral. The quietest air conditioner manufactured in India.

electricity bill by upto 25%.

d, should the need ever arise, the personalised service our 'Carrier Man' is always on hand.

ut beyond the Mistral, there's really much more to what Carrier Aircon offers. Be it the robust 'Alpine' power saving air conditioners; the widest offering of advanced multisplits in India; efficient fan coil units; superior air handling units. And a steady range of new products to follow.

So why not set course for the world's No. 1 air conditioning company.

AIR CONDITIONING. SINCE 1902.

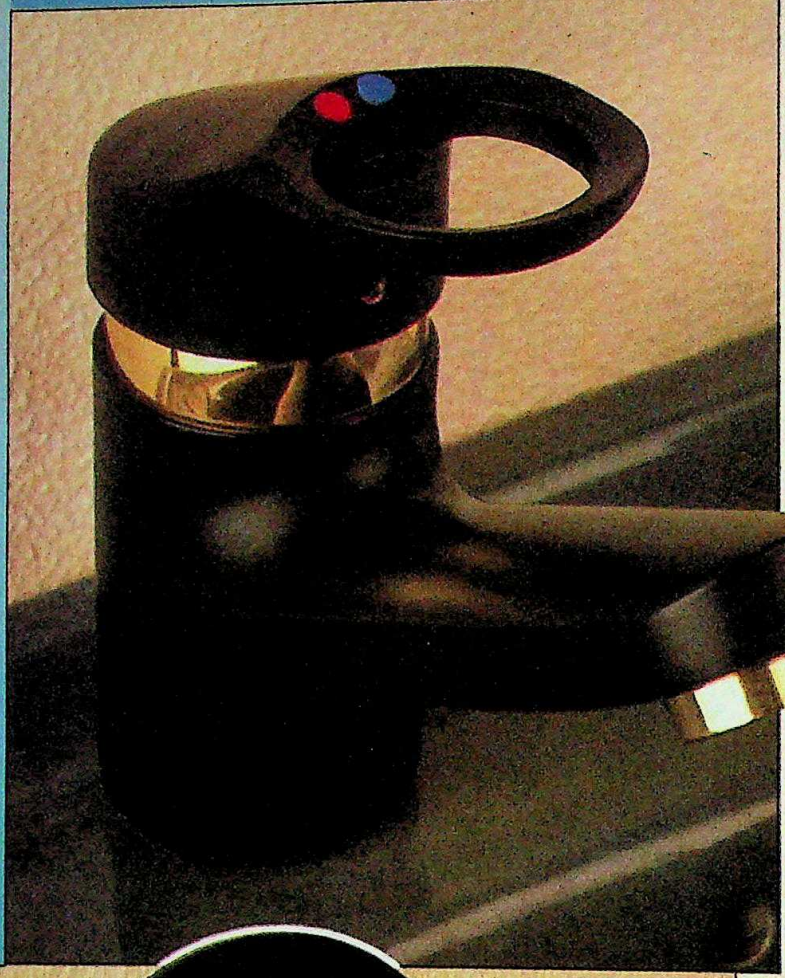
Carrier AIRCON

Ahmedabad : Ph : 460381. Lucknow : Ph : 72733. Chandigarh : Ph : 27447. Bhopal : Ph : 541623. Bhubaneswar : Ph : 55073. Gauhati : Ph : 22005. Jaipur : Ph : 74235.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

LUXURY THAT'S WASHERLESS

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Introducing
ORNAMIX -
the finest range of
AUTHENTIC
SINGLE LEVER
MIXERS.
From Jaquar.

Now you can dress your bathroom with ornaments — aptly called 'Ornamix'.

A range with designs that are simply out of this world. So modern, so sophisticated and so elegant. Enhanced by a choice of several colour combinations.

The best part of them all is inside — an imported Ceramic Disc Cartridge. Which means there are no washers to wear out and no money - wasting, irritating leaks ever. Plus the convenience of desired flow and temperature of water at the lift of a lever.

All this with the technological back up of Jaquar, a name synonymous with the finest in innovation, quality and reliability.

ORNAMIX
AUTHENTIC SINGLE LEVER MIXERS
from • JAQUAR

Jaquar

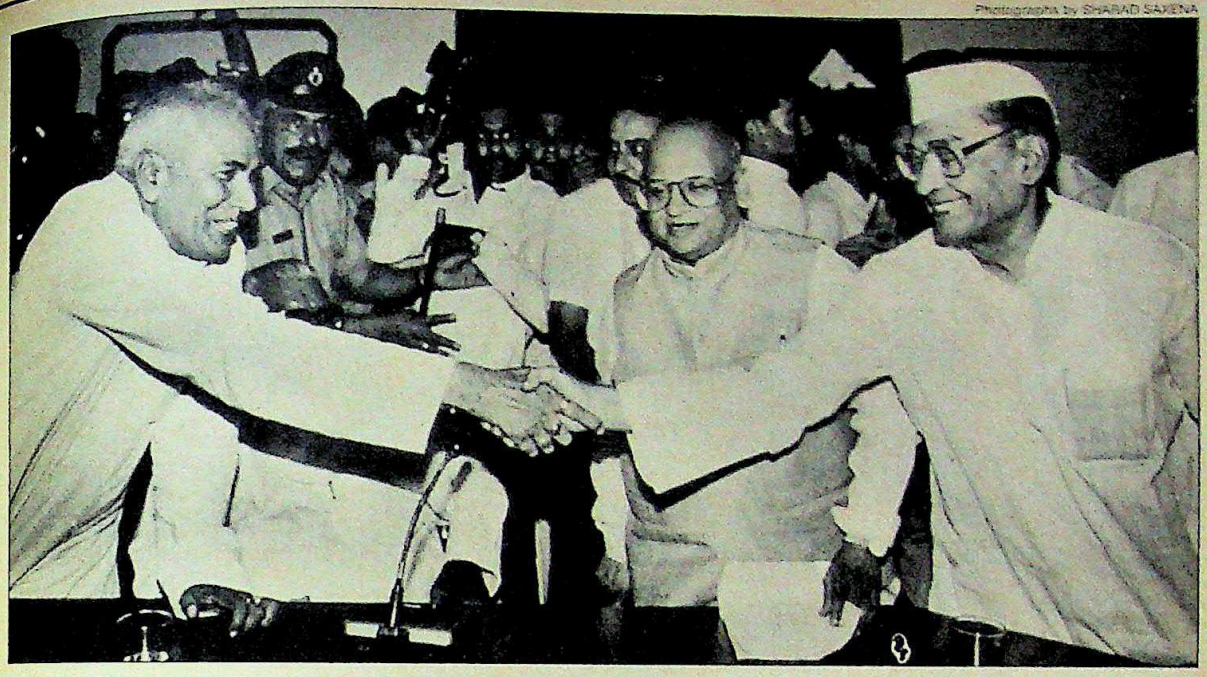
For more details, contact your nearest Jaquar dealer or Domain Marketing Representative at : Bombay : 6321761. Bangalore : 321900. Calcutta : 449129. Chandigarh : 42924. Delhi. : 7117411, 7215708.

Crescent

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by SHARAD SAXENA



Chautala and Gupta after election: proxy war

HARYANA

Change of Guard

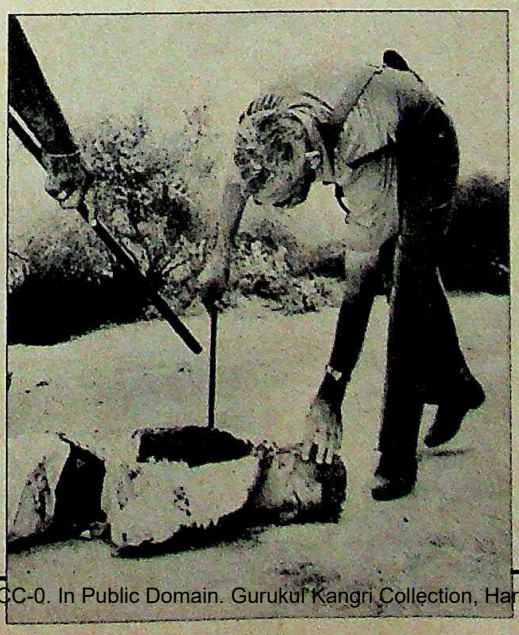
A new leader but the same old equations

FOR a political dynasty whose hallmark has been its ability to bulldoze its way out of the stickiest of crises it seemed a humiliating retreat. Last fortnight, as Haryana chief minister Om Parkash Chautala was forced to hand in his resignation following the murder of Amir Singh, an independent candidate in Meham constituency, and make way for Banarsi Das Gupta, it was time for his and his father Devi Lal's opponents to rejoice. The celebrations, however, were sobered by the realisation that it could afterall just be a tactical retreat by the Devi Lal camp.

The transfer of power from Chautala to Gupta—"I am happy with the unanimous choice of my successor," a beaming Chautala said—was preceded by high-tension drama when the pendulum swung back and forth from Ranjit to Hukam Singh, a hardcore Chautala supporter. Ranjit Singh, the estranged son of Devi Lal who quit the Chautala cabinet soon after violence first broke out in Meham in February, patched up differences with his father as soon as V.P. Singh assured agitating Congress(I) members in Parliament on May 21 that the Cabinet would take a decision the same night. In a meeting that lasted 85 minutes, Ranjit Singh tried hard to convince 'Bouji'—as he calls his father—that the mantle be passed onto him.

At that time, however, Devi Lal was planning to resign once again to save Chautala. He stayed away from the Cabinet meeting and the political affairs committee meet, in an effort to exert pressure but came around the next morning when he realised that Chautala had the option of either resigning gracefully or being summarily thrown out of the party.

Amir Singh's body in Meham



Ranjit and Chautala sat in different rooms in the deputy prime minister's residence with their supporters as they waited for Devi Lal to return from Parliament. It was obvious that there was no way Chautala would let his younger brother sit on the *gaddi*. Ranjit tried influencing his father through Bihar Chief Minister Laloo Prasad Yadav and waited for a positive signal from him but all Devi Lal told him was, "*Mein beton ko nahi bataya karta hoon*" (I don't share secrets with my sons).

But, Devi Lal's heart, as it later became clear, still lay with Chautala. They had been yoked closer together by recent events. Both had tasted defeat for the first time and they were in the game together. Chautala succeeded in convincing the irate Jat that a sympathetic person be made the leader so they could run the state by remote control till Chautala could make a comeback, which they think will be as soon as the inquiry into Amir Singh's death is completed.

Chautala, however, failed in

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

In April 1962
when we first
made paper from rice straw
an agricultural waste
instead of bamboo
that was an achievement!

This year, in May
for energy conservation
we were awarded
THE FIRST PRIZE
GOLDEN TROPHY
IBPL URJA ENERGY CONSERVATION AWARD
for the second year in succession.

...and this is how we've been
rewarding our country...

during the last 28 years we've
saved 236 million
bamboo culms.

ROHIT PULP & PAPER MILLS LIMITED
Rohit Chambers
Janmabhoomi Marg
Bombay 400 001

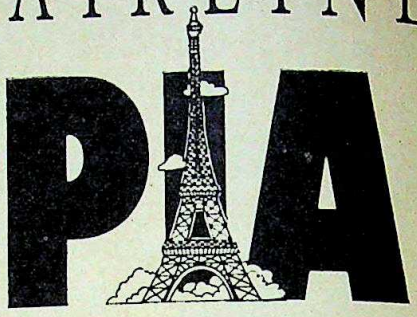
ROGER/RPPM/236-90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WHICH OTHER AIRLINE

takes you to the Towering heights of Paris...



drives you round the Ben in London...

gives you the Liberty of landing in New York...

adds a new Leaf to your schedule, with Toronto...

touches down at many other cities in the western world...
and yet leaves you walking on air with a memorable interlude at Karachi!

Only PIA does all this... and a bit more! It offers you the traditional hospitality and gracious service that many airlines try for. That's because PIA's highly efficient flight personnel have this special knack of making every passenger feel right at home, in any corner of the earth... or sky!

And now, every PIA traveller enjoys a memorable interlude in the beautiful tourist city of Karachi, en route to Europe, America, the Middle East, Africa and many more places — courtesy PIA.

PIA
Pakistan International
Great people to fly with

DELHI: Kailash Building, 26 Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001.
Phone : 3313161, 3313162, 3316295, 3316121

BOMABY: Hotel Oberoi Towers, Nariman Point, Bombay-400 021 Phone : 2021480, 2021598

Interpub/PIA/5/90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

his attempt to enthrone his sycophant, Hukam Singh, but soon settled for Gupta who was deputy chief minister in his cabinet. Devi Lal, reluctant to instal Ranjit Singh, concurred when Ranjit threatened to ensure a contest if Hukam Singh was foisted on them. Central observer and Gujarat Chief Minister Chimanbhai Patel too refused to play Chautala's game, saying he might even give permission for a secret ballot if the MLAs so desired.

"I am nobody's man," asserted Gupta *(see interview)*. But he has so far, however, only strengthened the view that he is guided by Chautala. Hukam Singh has been made the deputy chief minister and all five ministers inducted into the Gupta Cabinet are Chautala backers.

Gupta's supporters, are, however, confident that it won't be long before he can establish his own base amongst

Ranjit Singh: losing act

the party's legislators. He is also armed with the option of recommending the dissolution of the Assembly if Chautala and company get too tough on him.

What Gupta certainly has is the support of the high command in Delhi which will aid him in resisting the pressure that the Tau and his favourite son are bound to exert. Stung by defeat, Devi Lal has already embarked on what seems to be his only mission—to strike back. The intention behind the letter to V.P. Singh, criticising Ramakrishna Hegde and L.C. Jain for their open attacks on Chautala, is unmistakable. Blinded by love for his son, what Devi Lal fails to see is his fast declining popularity—irrespective of Darba Kalan—in his fief.

Regardless of which way Gupta tilts, this is clearly not the last time that tiny Haryana rocks the Central Government. And certainly not the last time that Chautala shoots from his father's fiefdom to the frontpages.

—HARINDER BAWEJA

BANARSI DAS GUPTA

"I'm nobody's man"

A key non-Jat lieutenant of Om Prakash Chautala, Banarsi Das Gupta, 73, spoke to Senior Correspondent HARINDER BAWEJA *soon after he was sworn in as chief minister of Haryana. Excerpts:*

Q. *Are you Chautala's man?*

A. I consider only Chaudhary Devi Lal as my leader. I am nobody's man or nominee. Devi Lal told me to accept the post as without me there would be no unanimity. He also wanted to get rid of the charges that he was propagating family rule and was pro-Jat.

Q. *After resigning Chautala said that 'whosoever becomes chief minister, we will continue to rule'. Will the reins of power remain with him?*

A. What he meant was that the Janata Dal would continue to run the state. Chautala is the Haryana Janata Dal president and the party chief always has a say in state affairs. But running the administration is the chief minister's direct charge.

Q. *How does it feel to be called a dummy chief minister?*

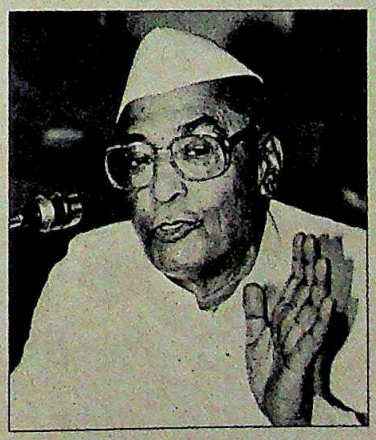
A. I cannot shut people's mouths. Judge me by my performance.

Q. *People say that yours is a stop-gap appointment.*

A. Chautala was performing well. If tomorrow the party wants he can become chief minister again. I am a disciplined member of the party and will accept any decision the high command takes. Chautala bowed to the high command's wishes even though no strictures were passed against him. I won't hesitate in doing the same.

Q. *Will you induct Ranjit Singh and his men?*

A. There is no such thing as



Chautala's men and Ranjit's men. They are all members of the Janata Dal. I have taken people I trust. And I haven't taken a decision on whether or not to include Ranjit Singh yet.

Q. *Do you think Chautala was asked to resign because he was guilty about Amir Singh's death?*

A. Amir Singh was our supporter. His killing only affected our election as we were all set for victory.

Q. *Has the Meham episode sullied the image of the Devi Lal family and the Government?*

A. It is unfortunate the Meham election got countermanded. Otherwise the result would have told you whether our image was sullied or not. I will advise Chautala to contest the Meham election, whenever it is held, so that we can tell the world that we were not to blame for the violence or the killing.

Q. *Will you accept a* CBI *inquiry into Amir Singh's killing?*

A. We have accepted the inquiry to be conducted by a sitting judge of the Supreme Court. There is no need for anything else.

Q. *Can Anand Singh Dangi and his supporters expect less victimisation under your chief ministership?*

A. What victimisation? Dangi is making excuses. The police was only doing its duty when it went to his house. After all, his name figured in the FIR lodged by Amir Singh's brother.

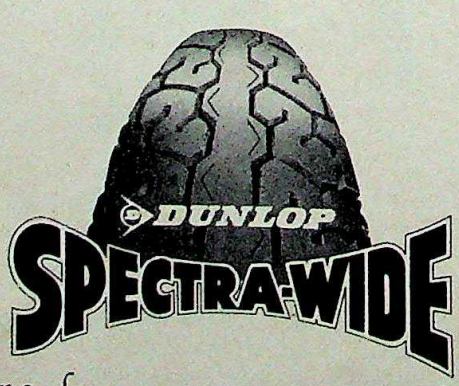
Q. *But why didn't the police do the same with Sampat Singh and Abhay Singh, Chautala's son, against whom* FIRs *were registered?*

A. How do you know the police hasn't interrogated them? Why can't we talk of something else? Everyday the newspapers are filled with reports on Meham and Chautala. Let's concentrate on the state's development which is my priority.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

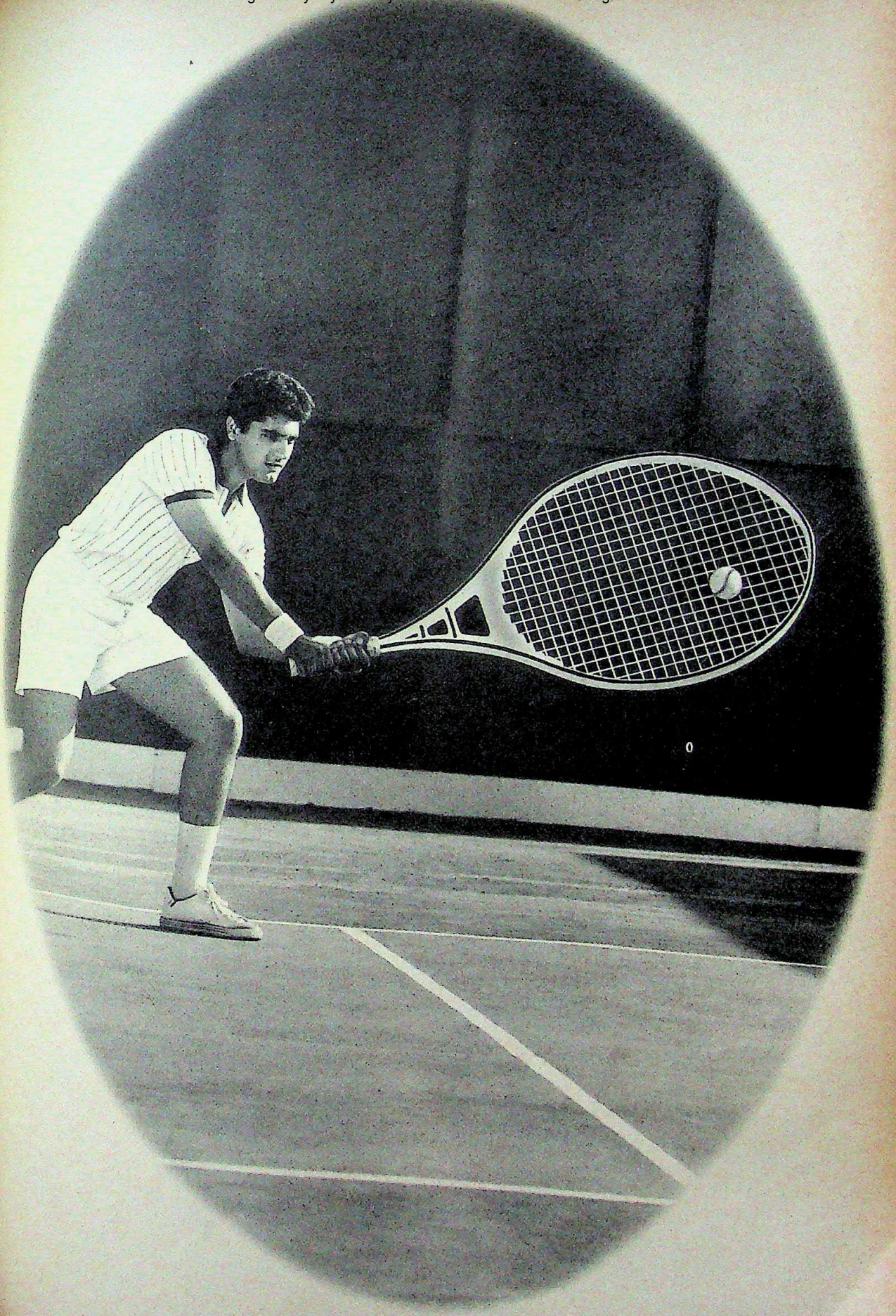
If only more things in life were Spectrawide.



The widest tyre for scooters and motorcycles.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ANDHRA PRADESH

Uphill Task

Cyclone relief poses problems

NOW that Andhra Pradesh is limping back to normal and the true dimensions of the destruction caused by the killer cyclone are being assessed, the toll has turned out far greater than what had been projected earlier. In fact, it is more widespread than in any natural disaster the peninsula has suffered during this century.

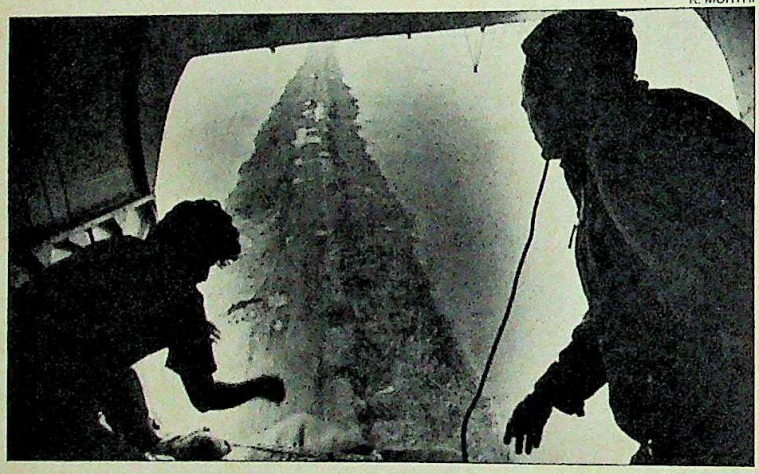
The cyclone destroyed 4,230 villages—stretching over seven districts in the state—and claimed about 1,000 lives, affecting over 65 lakh people. Stores of harvested paddy, mango and banana plantations and other crops worth Rs 216 crore were destroyed apart from 27 lakh heads of cattle and poultry. The total damage to property: a staggering Rs 2,000 crore.

Despite the lessons of earlier disasters, the state Government proved unequal to the task of providing immediate relief. The package of 10 kg rice (later increased to 25 kg) and the Rs 700-cash grant for rebuilding huts and buying clothes—announced by Chief Minister M. Chenna Reddy—were a long time reaching the villages.

Some positive moves were made after Prime Minister V.P. Singh visited the affected areas. He asked the Railway Board and the telecommunications minister to send special teams to restore communications and instructed 46 central public sector companies in the state to help rebuild specific affected areas. Besides, the Centre released 50,000 tonnes of rice, 5,000 tonnes of edible oil, eight lakh tonnes of bleaching powder and one million doses of anti-cholera vaccine. It also asked the RBI and financial institutions to reschedule payments on loans by farmers and offer them fresh loans.

Apart from rehabilitation, several daunting tasks now face the authorities. Several important rail lines have been disrupted and need urgent repairs. Another immediate task is to put the farmers' economy back on the rails by supplying seed for the kharif sowing in June and by getting graftings from Karnataka for the mango groves.

K. MURTHI



Air-dropping supplies: delayed relief

The irony of this year's mango crop is evident in the piles of rotting fruit in Vijayawada's wholesale market. Over 700 lorries carry the fruit from here every day during May to Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and other markets. Now, the municipal corporation is carting away the rotting fruit to its compost plant to turn it into organic manure.

Officials are also working on an anti-cyclone plan to build houses for fishermen at a safe distance from the coast, plant casurina trees and improve the drainage system to clear run off rain water in the deltaic districts.

Meanwhile, the state Government is seeking a hike in the relief amount of Rs 86 crore sanctioned by the Centre. Says a hopeful chief minister: "The prime minister has viewed it as a national calamity, and we hope he will sanction more funds to provide meaningful relief to all sections of victims." Given Singh's concern about the calamity, the flow of additional central funds to the state seems quite likely. But even with that, it will be a long time before normalcy returns to the state.

—AMARNATH K. MENON in Vijayawada

SIGN POSTS

AWARDED: Sreelekha Mukherjee with the national film award for best actress. Her sensitive portrayal as Laxmi in the Bengali film *Parashuramer Kuthar* (Parashuram's Axe), directed by Nabyendu Chatterjee, also won the film the national second best feature film of the year award, edging out Adoor Gopalakrishnan's film, *Mathilukal*.

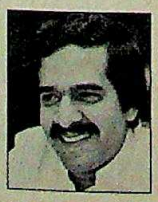
PERFORMED: Successfully on Isac, coronary by-pass surgery without blood transfusion at the Apollo Hospital, Madras. Isac, a 'Jehovah's Witness', didn't want a blood transfusion due to his religious beliefs.

TELECAST: *The Sword of Tipu Sultan* in the teeth of dire threats from the VHP who contended that the tele-serial portrayed Tipu as a heroic character when he was a bigot. It backed down on its threat to storm Mandi House on the night of the telecast.

APPOINTED: S.S. Barnala, as the governor of Tamil Nadu, replacing P.C. Alexander. The moderate Akali leader became chief minister of Punjab following the Rajiv-Longowal accord but was later dismissed by the centre. He resigned as president of Akali Dal (Longowal) last fortnight but his once-dominant role in Akali politics had long since declined.

WITHDRAWN: By L.C. Jain, a Gandhian and member, Planning Commission, the resignation he submitted following an article by *Indian Express* Editor Arun Shourie questioning his silence on the Meham issue.

INJURED: Ramesh Chennithala, MP and president, Indian Youth Congress, in a police lathi charge on an anti-Chautala demonstration in New Delhi. His injury, however, was more political than physical. Doctors treating him said that there were no visible marks of injury but they had applied the plaster "since the patient complained of pain in the leg".



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

PARFUMS

Zeenat

PARIS

For the woman in you!

Zeenat Aman

PARFUMS ZEENAT AMAN PARIS ®
Po Box 47 - 06370 MOUANS-SARTOUX - FRANCE - Telex ARTHES 970 131 F - Fax (33) 92 92 25 18

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

CC-0 ... Jain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

EUNUCHS

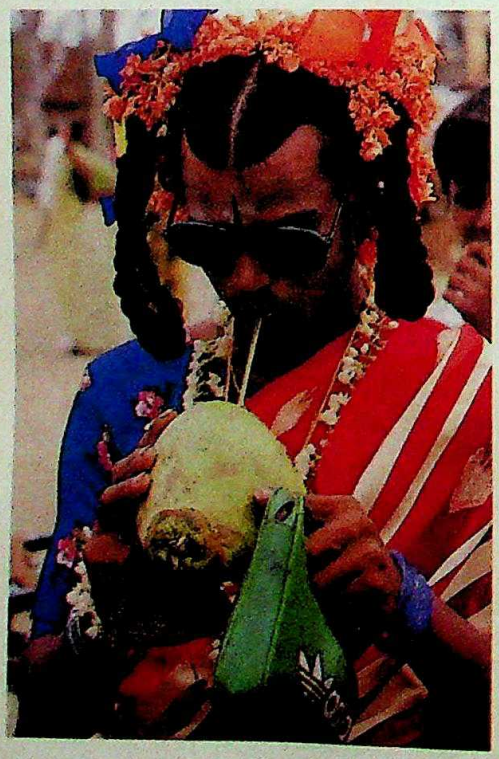
A BAWDY FESTIVAL

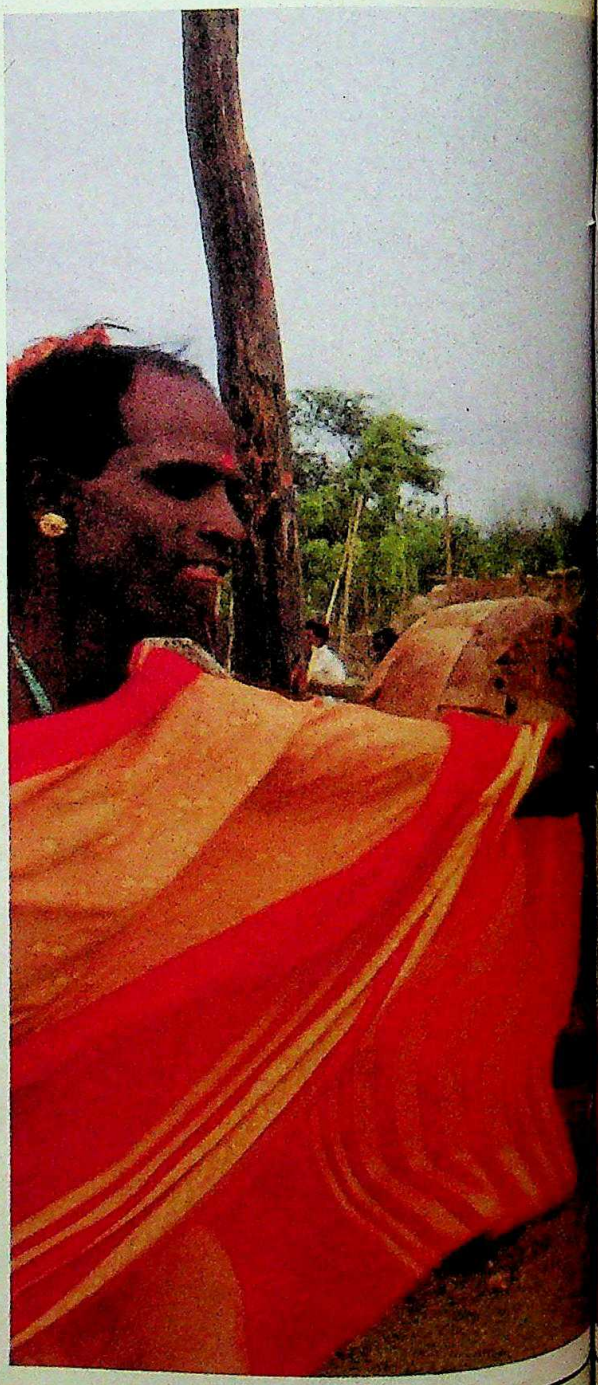
THE moon is ensconced radiantly on its high throne, casting an eerie glow on the sedate hut-ringed village of Koovagam about 200 km to the south of Madras. It is Chithra Paurnami, the full moon night of the Tamil month of Chittrai which falls in May. Suddenly the village erupts in a burst of raunchy rhymes and raucous roars, as if its 1,000-odd inhabitants had been possessed by demons.

It is not, however, malefic beings of the netherworld who have taken over Koovagam, but mysterious dwellers of another twilight zone which is neither male nor female. Eunuchs or hijras congregate here from all over the country each year for the *thali* festival at the Aravan temple. Dressed up in feminine attire—with castrated, undeveloped or damaged sexual organs—they gather at Koovagam to renew their faith in their, well, brotherhood, and to relive the ritual of Aravan.

The dilapidated village temple, at the centre of the festivities, is dedicated to Koothandavar, believed to be the

Aravan, the deity being taken in a procession (right top); hijras frolic in gay abandon; and (below) having a cool sip





incarnation
on the eve o
who dabble
for the battl
to sacrifice
There
army—Arj
and Krishn
the sacrific
princess, ha
beheaded. N
to die at da
So Krish
next morn

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

incarnation of Aravan, a son of Arjuna. The legend goes that on the eve of the battle of Kurukshetra, Sahadev, the Pandava who dabbled in astrology, was asked to fix an auspicious time for the battle to begin. Sahadev, in turn, advised the Pandavas to sacrifice a physically perfect male to ensure their victory.

There were only three perfect males in the Pandava army—Arjuna, Krishna and Arjuna's son, Aravan. Arjuna and Krishna being indispensable, Aravan offered himself for the sacrifice. But the handsome son of Arjuna by a serpent princess, had one last wish: that he be married before he was beheaded. No one, however, wanted to marry a man who was to die at dawn.

So Krishna, became a female, married Aravan, and the next morning when Aravan was beheaded, had a brief

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

widowhood, before reverting to his original form. The eunuchs identify themselves with this female form of Krishna and at the bizarre festival in Koovagam they get married to the deity, on the eve of Chithra Paurnami. The 'marriage' consists of a brief ceremony where the temple priest ties a *thali*—a yellow thread with a piece of turmeric—around the hijra's neck. Following the wedding is a night of wild revelry that continues until dawn, when they become widows.

ANTHONY, 26, and his wife Santhi, 30, come every year to Koovagam, from Vellore. Anthony works as an electrician for a monthly wage of Rs 600. Santhi is a housewife. They have been married for eight years, have no children but are happy. A normal couple one would think. But not quite. Santhi is a eunuch, having removed 'her' male organ in a crude operation four years ago, to get as close as possible to her "life-long yearning to be a woman".

Devi, 48, from Vilinjipuram, hiding a heavily made-up face from the camera with a towel, is a wholesale vegetable vendor where he is married to a normal woman and has five children. But every year, without his family's knowledge, he slips away quietly to Koovagam for the annual Aravan festival, where he indulges in his fantasy—the desire to be a female.

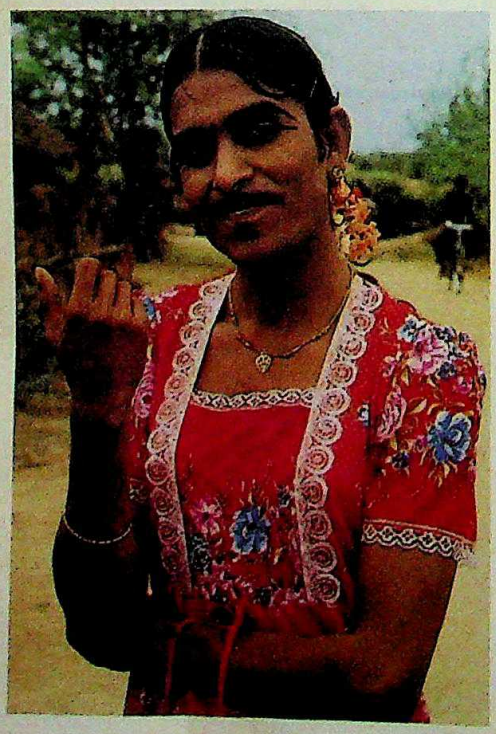
Thillana, 40, burly, dark and hairy is a primary school teacher in Kancheepuram. On weekends he teaches Bharatnatyam to a dozen students. In Kancheepuram, Thillana is a rugged male specimen, but here in Koovagam, 'she' is draped in a parrot green saree and a pink blouse holding a gold clutch purse, and with red polish gleaming on her nails. Thillana's hip-swaying walk, bawdy wit and incredible dancing prowess have made her a hot draw at Koovagam.

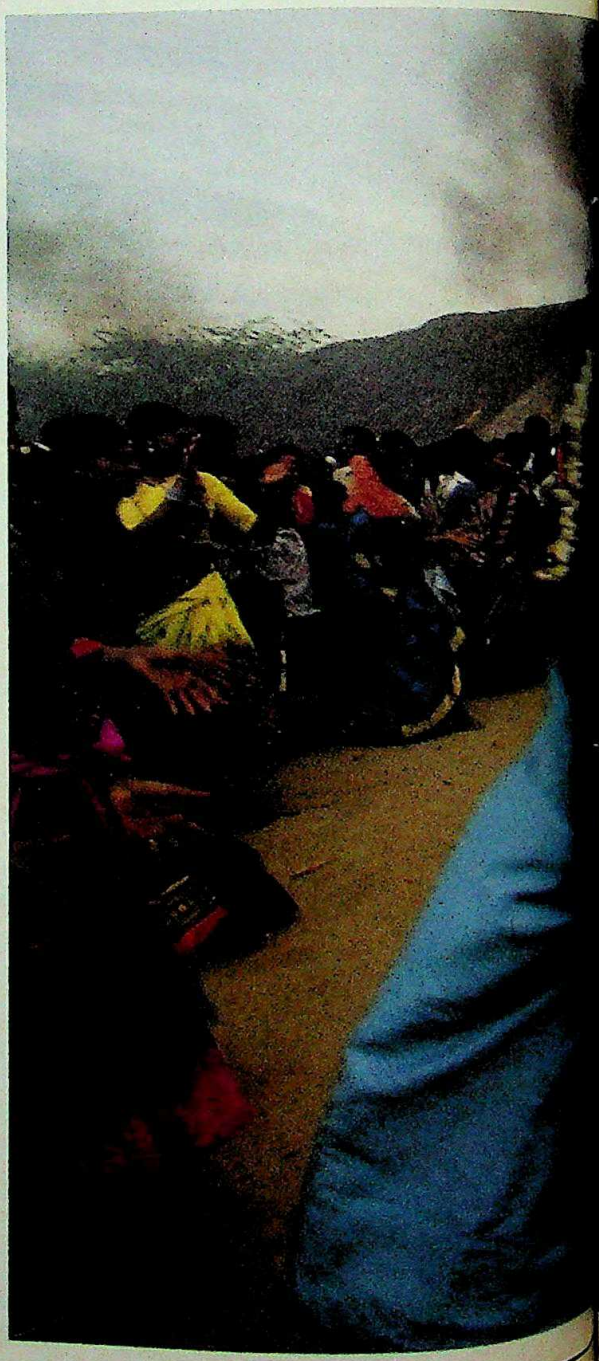
Since there are no lodges or hotels in Koovagam the villagers allow the hijras to occupy the front portions, the verandahs, of their homes for the three-day festival, for which the hijras recompense them when they leave. Says Kalyani, a hijra from Sultanpur, Delhi: "I have been coming here for 13 years now and I have always stayed in the same house. I give them something, and they leave me alone."

Most of the eunuchs travel in groups, each group led by a madam, who is called mummy by the north-based hijras and amma by those from the south. In north India most of the eunuchs live in groups, while those in the south prefer to operate independently.

A considerable amount of buying and selling of hijras takes place among the groups, with the mummys clinching deals and bargains. They make a living either by begging or dancing in the streets or by simply intimidating those who are wary of their queer appearance and outrageous behaviour.

Striking a classical pose (right bottom); dancing around the camphor fire before the arrival of the deity; (above) a eunuch with a moustache





CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some of them, however, feel hurt at the way people smirk and mock at them. Others think the ridicule is confined to certain places. "It is only in Tamil Nadu that people treat us poorly," complains Santhi, a hijra from Bombay. "They call us Alis and ridicule us. We are not Alis. Alis are soldiers who were castrated by Moghul rulers in order to render them safe enough to guard their harems. We are different. In the north people respect us and let us be."

By noon on the eve of Chithra Paurnami, the cumbrous process of dressing the brides for the wedding has begun. Tweezers, razors and bottles of Anne French are pulled out. Stomachs, chests, armpits, chins shaved smooth; beedi-purple lips are painted pink; blouses are stuffed with kerchiefs; lurid coloured sarees are wrapped around muscular bodies; ear-rings and nose rings affixed. Heaps of flowers are placed on

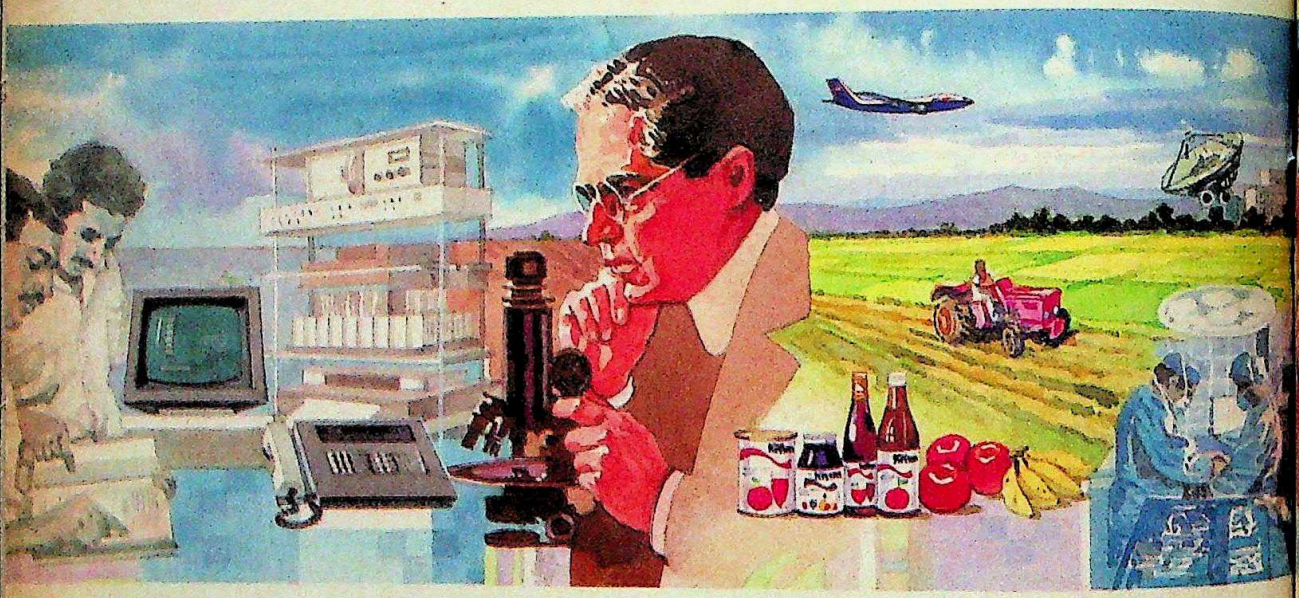
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

1915 – 1990

UB 75 JUBILEE

Portrait of a 75 year old



Pharmaceuticals and petrochemicals. Processed foods, polymers, electronics and energy products. Engineering, telecommunications, paints and biotechnology. That's the business portfolio of The UB Group today. A group that began 75 years ago as one brewery. The pace of growth and diversification has been accelerated by the Group's accent on technology. A corporate guideline th has helped the Group contribute significantly t every field it has entered. Revolutionary diagnos systems and remedies. Petrochemical substitu for natural raw materials. Restandardising old engineering equipment to near new standards As India's leading multinational, the Group has

chieved a
perating
rough its
cholson
ancial p
the best
laborato

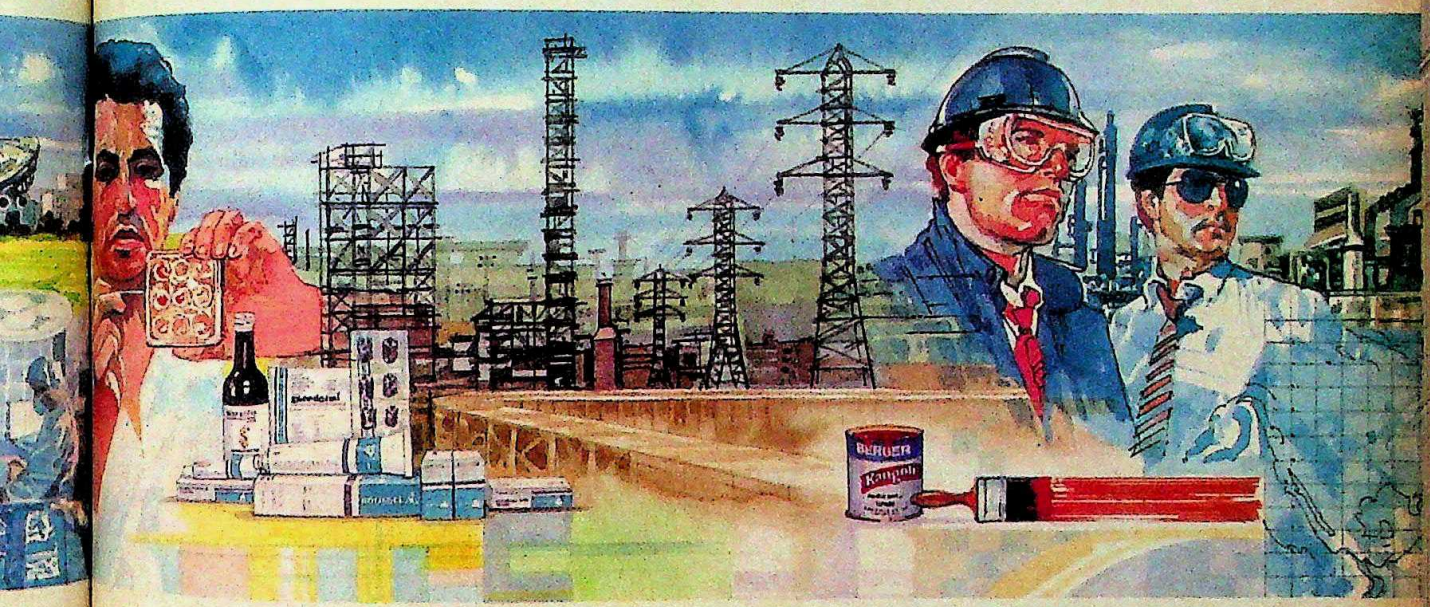
PHARMACEUTICALS
PAINTS
LIQUOR/BEER
PETROCHEMICALS
POLYMERS
BIOTECHNOLOGY
ENGINEERING
FOODS

ERGY P
RESEARCH
ELECTRON
EXPORTS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

r oldeer and liquor company



ideline th
nificantly
ry diagno
l substitu
dising old
tandards
Group ha

chieved a track record for excellence even abroad
operating in 26 countries around the world –
rough its association with the Jenson &
cholson Group. Backing this drive is the
ancial prowess of a Rs. 14 billion group; access
the best technologies the world over through
llaborators; and the power to constantly break
new ground through the R&D activities of the
Vittal Mallya Scientific Research Foundation.
On its 75th anniversary, India's fastest growing
industrial conglomerate looks forward to the
opportunity to take India into the 21st century.

ENERGY PRODUCTS
RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT
ELECTRONICS & TELECOMMUNICATION
EXPORTS

THE UB GROUP
IN PACE WITH THE FUTURE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

B&M/3041

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

wigs of assorted sizes before the brides move towards the temple for the wedding.

The hijras have an incredible fascination for clothes and make-up. "I love make-up and jewellery," says Kumari, 23, a bony hijra from Bombay with an ear weighed down with long ear-rings. "I spend most of the money I earn on cosmetics and trinkets." Kumari, on her way to the hut of a hijra friend who'd lent her a pink blouse for the evening, whispers: "I could never wear this blouse. It's too low-necked, it'll show everything."

Hijras go through a crude castration operation without the use of anaesthetic that leaves a wound that takes 30 days to heal. "It is very painful," says Lakshmi, 23, a hijra from Madras. "But I am a much happier person since I got rid of that symbol of masculinity. I am as close to being a complete woman as I will ever be." Then, she adds, nudging a short man hovering around her: "My husband thinks so too."

Her husband, Jayaram, 32, is an auto-driver from Madras. "We fell in love and got married but since then I've lost all interest in women," he says. "The only drawback is she can't have a child," complains Jayaram, a trifle wistfully, but cheers up again as he draws out from behind him a young hijra with a hideously painted face. "This is our adopted daughter, Rani."

The hijras are a very physical people, every syllable they utter is punctuated with a touch, a pinch on your cheek, or your bottom (if you're male), or simply a lunge at your abdomen. One visitor at Koovagam claimed he had received two marriage proposals and several propositions.

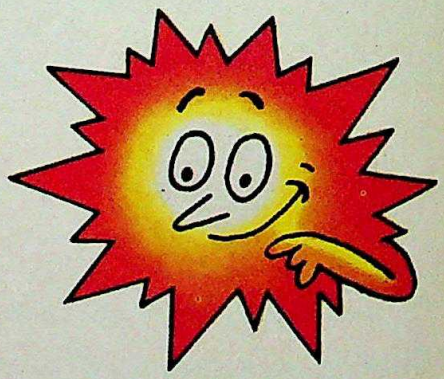
But no one really minds. In fact, some young men who visit Koovagam from nearby towns and villages come there specifically to savour the fabled sexual delights that hijras are known to offer. A young undergraduate from nearby Cuddalore, Shanmugasundaram, 20, seated on a charpoy with a well decorated hijra lying across his lap says: "I came here just to look at these guys, and they are very friendly."

Hijras wail in grief after the ritual beheading of Aravan, Arjuna's handsome son

The friendliness mounts through the day, till by nightfall all the hijras are 'married', and Koovagam turns a little unpredictable for young males. 'Couples' walk hand in hand down the village streets before disappearing into deserted fields to celebrate their wedding night. Says the local sub-inspector, who, with 40 policemen has the unenviable job of keeping the eunuchs in check: "They are having their own private festival, we don't stop them as long as they don't trouble those outside their community."

NEXT morning, at the crack of dawn, the main festival begins. A flower-bedecked chariot bearing an idol of Aravan is taken in a procession around the village, and then beheaded. The procession is a melee. Thousands of people from neighbouring areas, not necessarily eunuchs, throng the village for a glimpse of the deity. Many non-hijras too participate in the *thali* festival to fulfil vows or seek blessings. The hijras sing and dance around huge mounds of camphor and heaps of coconuts placed on the procession route.

There are sideshows too. A policeman following the chariot is stopped by a gentle tap on his shoulder. He turns to see a hand with red-painted finger nails caressing his shoulder. The hand belongs to a stocky eunuch in a blue chiffon saree and a daring sleeveless blouse. The policeman flaunts his lathi. "Don't you dare touch me!" he bellows.



Does Your Car Look As Good After THE SUMMER ?

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

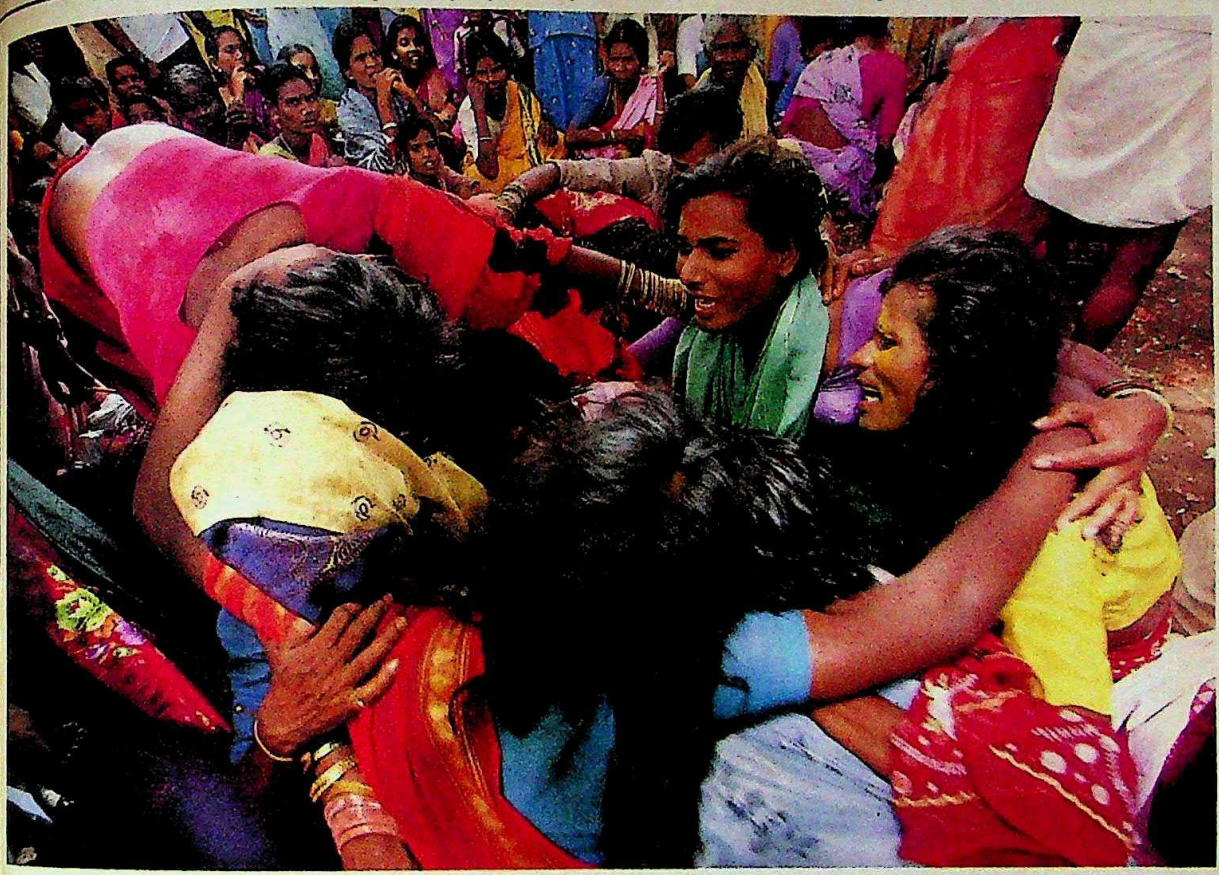
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

on

cross his
and they

nightfall
s a little
in hand
deserted
ocal sub-
ble job of
heir own
ey don't

n festival
n idol of
lage, and
of people
s, throng
ijras too
blessings.
camphor
ute.
ving the
e turns to
ssing his
n a blue
oliceman
bellows.



Does Your Car
Look As Good After

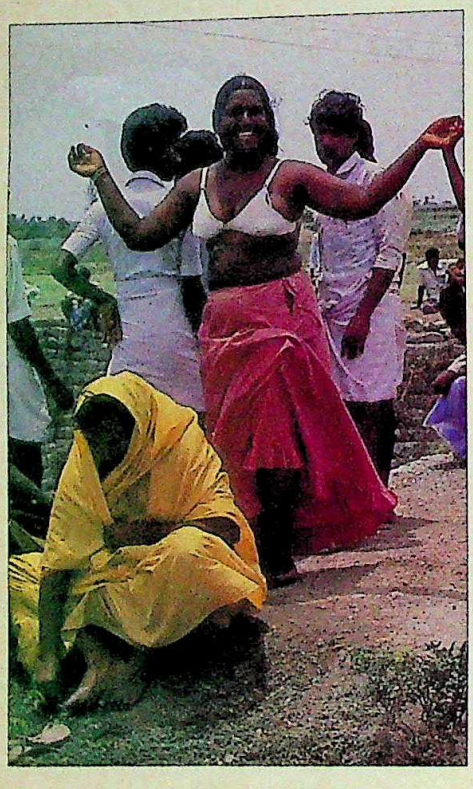
THE MONSOON ?

ADROIT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

After the ritual bath in the village pond; and (bottom) dressing in white sarees to mourn the death of Aravan, like Krishna did



"What darling, have you forgotten me," coos the hijra, "look closely". "Sekhar, is that you?" shrieks the stunned policeman. Sekhar bats his eyelids. The disgusted policeman turns to onlookers and says: "This fellow works in the Coimbatore Town Hall, earning more than Rs 1,500. His parents have five daughters, he is the only son and look at him." Unrepentant, Sekhar pouts and says: "Don't call me Sekhar, my name is Silk, Kovai Silk," and shudders delicately like the screen vamp he's named himself after.

Koovagam is full of strange creatures just like Sekhar, with a female soul trapped in a male body. Many hijras come to Koovagam with the acquiescence of surprisingly tolerant families. Says Shanbagam, the sister-in-law of Meena (alias Rajasekar), who has come to Koovagam with her husband and children: "If that is what is written in her fate how can we stop it? If that's how she is, then that is how she must be."

Not all hijras are so lucky. Many rebel. Like Radhika, 30, who was forced to marry a girl by 'her' stubborn parents. Unable to consummate the marriage, Radhika left 'her' wife and is now the mistress of a married man, with whom she says she is quite happy.

As the procession winds its way to its destination, some furlongs from the temple, the 'brides' have already gathered there, cutting their *thalis* and breaking their bangles, before a smaller idol of Aravan. Then they gather in groups and thump their chests in grief. It is a passionate sorrow that they exhibit, in the best traditions of *opperi*, the Tamil art of mourning. Then they bathe at the village pond to a curious audience of villagers, and change into the widow-white of mourning marking the end of the festival.

The echoes of their boisterous revelry remain. Amid that, the plaintive words of Vani from Kancheepuram: "We may not be males or females, but we are human beings. Why can't people see us that way?" —KAVITHA SHETTY in Koovagam

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Asian Paints introduces

APCA

automotive paint

The Car Paint that looks good through Sun, Rain... and Time

Haven't you often wondered why it's so difficult to maintain the good looks of your car, as the seasons pass? The colour fades, the finish gets chipped... and you long for the original look that once was.

Presenting APCA. The car paint that looks good and continues to look good. That's because the APCA paint system is specially formulated for Indian conditions. It contains special non-fading pigments and ultra-violet absorbers to ensure the good looks of your car last through blistering summers. And rust-inhibiting agents to protect your car from corrosion in slushy monsoons. Furthermore, APCA has been rigorously tested in all conditions, across all regions, so that your car's good looks last longer!

Popular shades for all vehicles. APCA can be used on all vehicles, and it's available in all popular shades, including shades of automotive manufacturers, matched exactly to the original. Because it's Asian Paints who supply the original paint to vehicle manufacturers such as Maruti, Telco, Hero Honda, TVS Suzuki, among others.

So now that it's time to repaint your car, would you settle for anything less?

Looks good. Keeps looking good.

(Available in select towns only)

asian paints

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Our most popular series

Produced by ABC

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

We make the largest range of refined cooking oils: *Ginni* Groundnut Oil; *Ginni* Cottonseed Oil; *Soyalite* Soyabean Oil; *Bansari* Mustard Oil. With this popular series, we meet the diverse cooking needs of our various consumers.

50 Years Of Great Going

Amrit Banaspati Co. Ltd. A single product company in 1940, it has grown to become a group with 3 companies and 5 product ranges. The parent company alone has an annual turnover of over Rs 250 crores.

The Group's products are not only popular household names, but many are brand leaders in their respective fields: *Gagan* vanaspati, *Ginni* groundnut and cottonseed oils, *Uncle Chipps'* potato wafers, *Big Sipp* and *Golden Glow* soya milk health products, as well as newsprint and writing papers from non-conventional raw materials.

Great Plans For The Future

Amrit Banaspati Company is constantly exploring new avenues for diversification. At the same time it is striving to improve its existing range through new technologies and modernisation of plants and machinery.

Whereas the consumer is foremost in the company's mind, we are equally conscious of the importance and welfare of our shareholders, employees and dealers.

We aren't just resting on our achievements of the last 50 years, but striving to be even better.

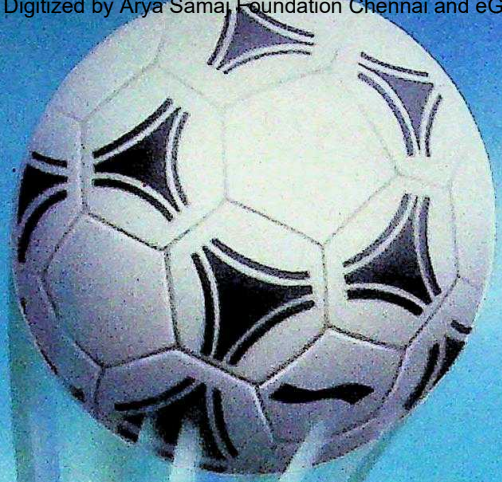
50 YEARS OF

AMRIT BANASPATI CO.LTD.
GREAT YEARS. GREAT GOING.

Amrit Banaspati Co. Ltd.
(Amrit Paper • Amrit International)

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Though we don't play soccer...

... we do get a kick out of perfecting performance

Choose your set from the wide Konark range

Colour:
Galaxy Plus 7 system (51cm) • Senator 1053 (53 cm) • Senator 1090 (51cm) • Senator 1010 (51cm) • Senator 2000 (51cm) • Senator Jr. (36 cm).

B/W 51 cm:
Rohini Premier • Rohini Delux • Rohini Core • Rohini Core II.

B/W 36 cm:
Geetanjali Core
• Geetanjali Dx.
• Geetanjali Super
• Geetanjali Premier
• Geetanjali Mark V.

KONARK TV

The image of hi-tech quality

KONARK TELEVISION LIMITED (A Govt. of Orissa Enterprise)
"ELECTRONICS BHAWAN", Dev Haridwar
Rasulgarh, Bhubaneswar 751 010

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ANOTHER DEFENCE SCANDAL

YET another juicy defence scandal is in the offing. Last month, the Enforcement Directorate (FERA) raided the premises of a Rs 50-crore Delhi-based concern, Machine Tools (India) Ltd (MTI). Government sleuths interrogated the company's Managing Director Y.H. Tata and its General Manager T. Kuppuswamy and seized many documents. Between 1987 and 1989, MTI, a FERA firm, had supplied equipment worth Rs 35 crore for manufacturing components and bodies of the T-72 tank produced at the Indian Army's vehicle factory at Avadi near Madras. Preliminary inquiries reveal that a 'hidden' discount of 10 per cent or Rs 3.5 crore was involved in the transactions. The directorate is investigating whether company executives and key personnel in the Ordnance Factories Board siphoned off this amount and stashed it in foreign banks. Officials also discovered other interesting details about the company, 40 per cent of whose equity is held by John Brown of UK which in turn is controlled by the Trafalgar House group. MTI recently sought official permission to reduce its share capital from Rs 10 lakh to Rs 6 lakh. The question is, why would a profitable company want to curtail its equity base?

HOUSING HASSLES

LAST year, a Rs 27-crore deal was struck to enable Reliance Industries Ltd to move into the imposing Crescent House in Bombay's Ballard Estate which currently houses the offices of ICI India Ltd. Reliance coughed up two-thirds of the amount and was supposed to pay the balance in June, by when it was meant to occupy this prime one lakh sq ft property sitting on land owned by the Bombay Port Trust (BPT). But there's a snag: ICI and the BPT authorities are yet to arrive at a settlement on the building's new lease rental. One reason is that the ICI group (formerly Imperial Chemical Industries) has gone through various incarnations during its four decades in India.

Crescent House was first occupied by Crescent Dyes and Chemicals, a group company which was merged into Indian Explosives Ltd in 1984. The company became IEL Ltd the next year and then ICI India last year. The BPT argues that in 1984 a 'transfer' of ownership took place but the group says ICI is the 'successor' to Crescent Dyes. If a transfer took place, BPT can ask for higher rent from 1984. This is not something ICI likes, though it agrees that the rent needs to be hiked. By how much, is the question. While ICI and BPT sort out their dispute, Reliance cools its heels.

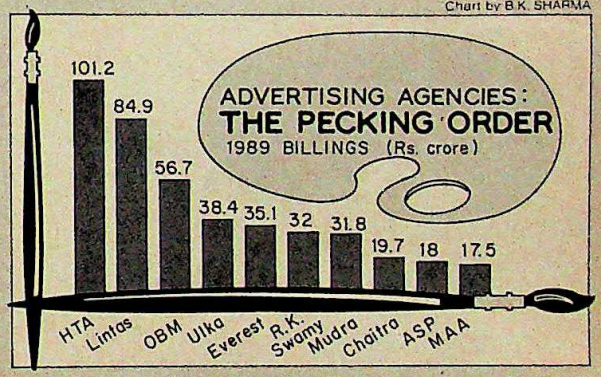
TROUBLE IN THE FAMILY

GEOFFREY Manners, the Bombay-based consumer products and pharmaceuticals company of the Wyeth group, is going through an uncertain phase. The closely-held concern—which manufactures Forhans toothpaste and Anacin tablets—is controlled by the US multinational American Home Products (AHP) which has a 51-per cent equity stake, the rest being held by the low-profile Maheshwari family. In recent months, the company has seen an exodus of top talent; senior executives say a rift in the Maheshwari family has affected employee morale. Some years ago, the family had planned a merger of group companies, but the proposal fell through because of opposition from one faction. At that time, things were kept under wraps, but now the rift is out in the open. Foreign bankers are puzzled that AHP is apparently showing little interest in its Indian operations. They argue that with a dominant shareholding, the US concern should have sent its own trouble-shooters to supervise Geoffrey Manners. But that hasn't happened yet.

TOP BILLING

THE country's largest advertising agency Hindustan Thompson Associates (HTA) is besides itself with joy. And why not? The reputed American journal *Advertising Age* has placed HTA's billings (excluding those of its subsidiaries and associates) for 1989 at Rs 101.2 crore, the

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



first time an Indian agency's billings have crossed Rs 100 crore. HTA was also the first agency to exceed the Rs 50-crore mark in 1986-87. Next in the pecking order are Lintas, OBM, Ulka, Everest, R.K. Swamy and Mudra. Agencies here question the rankings. For instance, Clarion is missing from the list of 25 leading agencies while not-so-well-known Raka Advertising of Bombay has been included. At least one major agency, Rediffusion, did not submit its figures to the journal.

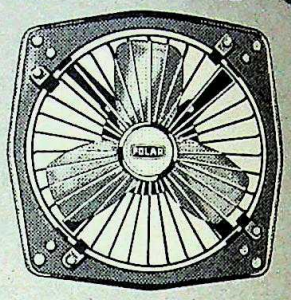
EXPORT DRIVE

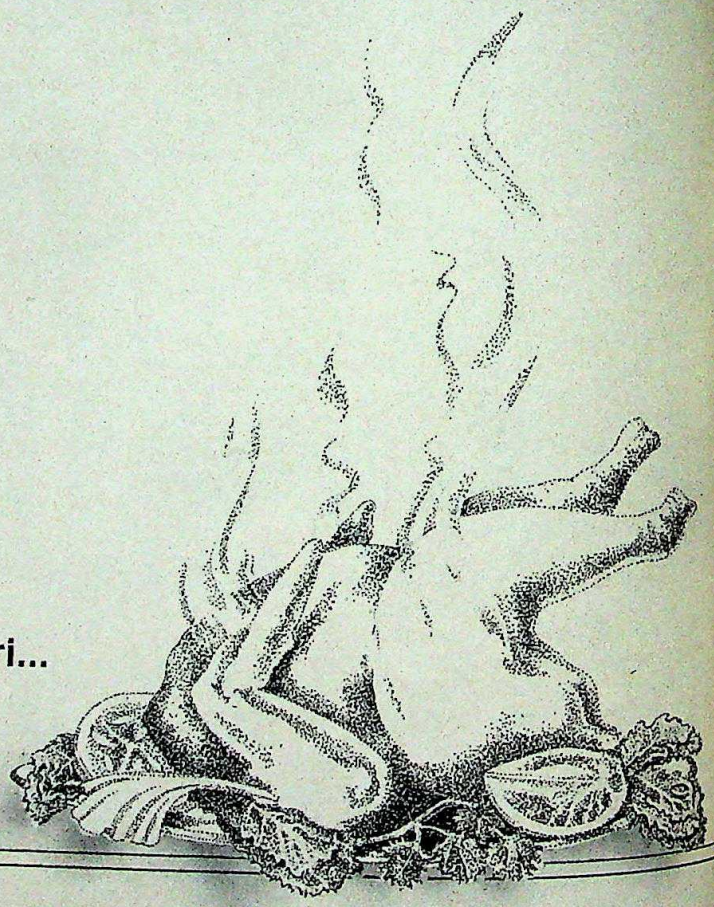
MARUTI Udyog Ltd (MUL) is finding the going good down under. After exporting some 5,200 vehicles valued at $22 million (Rs 36 crore) last year to a host of countries including Hungary, France, Bangladesh, Tanzania, Malta, Cyprus, and Papua and New Guinea, MUL shipped 170 Gypsy jeeps to Australia in January this year. Australian vehicle dealers, it seems, have found consumer response to the Gypsy quite favourable. Last fortnight, they visited India to place repeat orders for 450 additional vehicles. The tag: Rs 5 crore. MUL spokesmen explain that low labour costs make exports from India an attractive proposition. Labour costs for a Maruti work out to only 2 per cent of the ex-factory price whereas the figure for a vehicle produced in Japan is around 12 per cent.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

POLAR





How to make hot, sizzling Chicken Nizouri...

... while your kitchen feels like the Hawa Mahal.

Hot, sizzling Chicken Nizouri. Take a large chicken and cut into even size pieces. Grind 4 flakes of garlic and one inch piece ginger. Mix and grind to fine paste with 1 tsp cumminseeds, 1 tbsp poppy seeds, 5 cardamons, 7 cloves, 4 Kashmiri chillies, turmeric, coconut and cinnamon. Heat and crush ½ tsp saffron and soak in milk.

Heat oil, fry sliced onion, add ground masala, garlic and ginger paste, bay leaves and fry until oil separates from masala. Add chicken and water and cook over slow fire.

When chicken is ready, add coconut water, chillies, coriander leaves, curd and cook for 5 minutes. Add saffron. Serve hot.

The cool, smokefree kitchen.

Take 4 tbsp of butter, 3 tsp vanilla essence. Add an ounce of flattery. Massage onto husband's mind.

As he begins to smile, loosen his purse strings. Softly, ask for a Polar Clean Air Exhaust Fan. Which will leave your kitchen fresh, cool and smokefree. Like the Hawa Mahal.

Go ahead, try it ! What's one great recipe without the other?

POLAR

CLEAN AIR
EXHAUST FAN

Drive out the stale air. Bring in the smiles.

LINTAS (CAL)/CA/4/2719

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

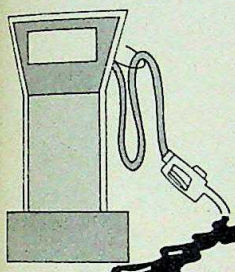
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PETROL

The Coming Crunch

The Government seriously contemplates rationing

CLOSING of petrol pumps one day every week and a reduction in their working hours. Limits on the amount of petrol that can be purchased at one time. Serpentine queues. And a flourishing black market. For millions of car and two-wheeler owners, these aren't horror stories far into the future when oil stocks run out.



With the prime minister himself warning—not once but twice in the last 10 weeks—that the country should prepare itself for a period of petrol rationing, they are prospects that are looming nearer with each passing day.

To be sure, the Government is far from arriving at a consensus about how rationing is to be enforced and how petrol demand can be curbed, and it is unlikely to do so in the next month or two. Still, there has been at least one positive fall-out of V.P. Singh's recent statements: issues relating to public-versus-private transport are again being debated at a national level. Whether the outcome of the debate will result in a reduction in car and two-wheeler production is not certain.

But one thing is clear: India just cannot afford to increase its consumption of petroleum products at the pace it has in the recent past. The figures are startling: last year petrol consumption increased by 14.5 per cent, the highest jump in living memory. By way of contrast, during the '70s, petrol consumption did not go up; in fact, in some years during the decade it actually fell.

That's not all. In the last two years, the country's import bill went up by 46.2 per cent according to the Petroleum Ministry. The Commerce Ministry's provisional statistics place the growth higher—at 48.2 per cent. Whichever figure one chooses, it is clearly a record of sorts. Barring the two global oil price shocks of 1973 and 1979, India's import bill has never gone up as rapidly as it did between 1988-89 and 1989-90.

The Petroleum Ministry asked the Government for Rs 8,600 crore in foreign exchange for imports of crude oil and petroleum products during the current year. But last fortnight, the Finance Ministry asked the Petroleum Ministry to peg the 1990-91 import bill at last year's level of Rs 6,400 crore. To do this, consumption of petroleum products will have to be cut by 1 or 2 per cent this year.

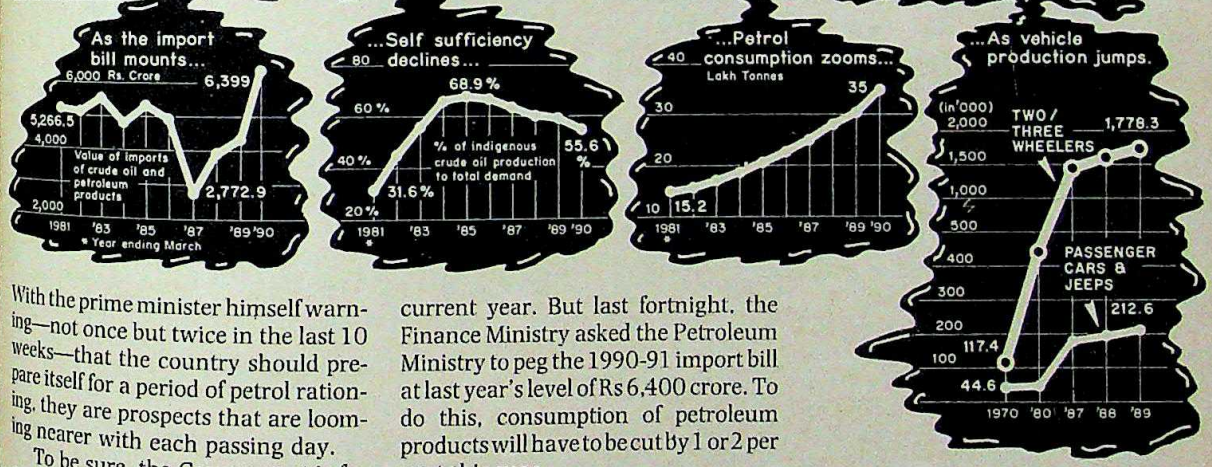
But why is the Government only thinking of rationing petrol—whose demand is fully met by the country's refineries—and not attempting to curb consumption of diesel and kerosene, which India imports in substantial quantities? Explains Petroleum Minister M.S. Gurupadaswamy: "If I cut kerosene consumption, I affect almost each and every home. And if diesel consumption is reduced, the entire road transport sector will be badly hit." In other words, it is politically expedient to axe petrol demand.

Gurupadaswamy admits that since the Government lacks an administrative machinery to adequately enforce rationing, there may be queues and black marketing. The 1979 experience of informally rationing diesel was not entirely happy. "There are practical difficulties but something will have to be done," he remarks almost helplessly. What will that something be? "We are looking into it," he replies.

An inter-ministerial committee headed by Petroleum Secretary Madhav D. Godbole is currently examining the problems involved in curbing petrol consumption. The committee's recommendations are expected to be sent to a committee of secretaries to the Union Government in end-June after which they will be placed before the Cabinet. Godbole says the Petroleum Ministry alone can't restrain consumption and that energy conservation has to be a national priority. "We may think of enacting laws of the kind Japan has to conserve energy—in fact two years ago a draft bill was prepared but nothing happened," he says.

Long-term measures aimed at efficient use of energy aside, what can be done in the short-run? "It's not easy to reduce demand," admits Godbole.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



Steps like closing the petrol pumps once a week can, at best, touch only the fringe of the problem, declares S.L. Khosla, chairman of Indian Oil Corporation. More effective, he believes, would be stricter enforcement of the new Motor Vehicles Act, speed limits on roads and highways and a ban on plying vehicles in central business districts of cities. "It would be good for the health of the nation if we walked more," Khosla quips.

Others argue that it is virtually impossible to bring down consumption. They point out that India's per capita consumption of petroleum products is barely 3 per cent the level in developed countries. Khosla says this is not the real issue. What is important is to drastically improve the efficiency of petroleum use. "Energy audits should

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

be made mandatory for industries—the Government should penalise those who are profligate and reward those who use energy efficiently," he says.

All this is easier said than done. "At the rate we have been adding vehicles on the roads, it is very difficult to curb petrol demand—cars and scooters don't run on water," says P.K. Goel, executive director, Petroleum Conservation Research Association. The country's two and three-wheeler population has considerably gone up in recent years *(see chart)*. At present, such vehicles account for nearly 60 per cent of total petrol consumption.

But it's not just the number of vehicles, its their fuel-efficiency that matters. Of the 12 lakh-odd passenger cars in the country, at least half are fuel-inefficient Ambassadors and Premiers which run 7-10 km per litre.

"The harsh reality is that petrol consumption can be curbed only by hiking prices. It's the only effective way to ration," says R.C. Bhargava, chairman, Maruti Udyog Limited. But such a solution will hardly find favour with a government that is under pressure to check inflation. The obvious alternative is to improve public transportation. "As an energy-scarce, capital-scarce nation, we have chosen the most inappropriate and inefficient transport mix," fumes Lovraj Kumar, former petroleum secretary. He points out that while in the '50s nearly 90 per cent of Bombay's office-goers used some form of public transport, the figure today is under 50 per cent.

In certain respects, India has been rather fortunate. The boom in vehicle production coincided with a decline or stagnation in global oil prices. The average price at which the country imported crude oil crashed from $25.28 per barrel in 1985-86 to $13.52 the following year. In 1987-88, the price went up to $16.85, came down to $14.26 the next year before rising to $16.47 last year. But in future the country may not be so lucky.

If the Soviets insist on India paying for crude in hard currency—as they once suggested to former finance minister S.B. Chavan—the country's balance of payments will go haywire. Equally disconcerting, domestic crude production as a proportion of total consumption has come down from nearly 69 per cent in 1984-85 to 55.6 per cent last year and may well fall below 50 per cent by the turn of the century. For petrol users, a period of austerity is clearly on the cards.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA

CREDIT CARDS

New Player

Citibank enters the business

GUESS who's coming to Diners? It's Citibank actually. Last fortnight, after several months of uncertainty, the bank received Reserve Bank of India's permission to take over the Indian operations of Diners Club, the market leader in the credit cards business.

Until recently, Diners' Indian franchise was operated by the Bombay-based Aggarwal family. The Aggarwals insist it's not a 'forced' takeover, but observers claim the family opted for a sale because Diners has faced industrial relations problems and financial hassles in the recent past. Citibank's acquisition price, a closely-guarded secret, is believed to be in the region of Rs 5 crore.

With this, Citibank (which owns Diners Club worldwide) will be the second foreign bank operating in the country to enter the highly competitive credit card business. Says Citibank's Chief Executive Officer Jaithirth Rao: "The tie-up will help boost tourism revenues and for domestic card-holders, we promise them global standards of service."

But all is not well with India's Rs 180-crore credit card business. There are too many players in a market that is not growing fast enough. The domestic base is narrow with a major portion of credit card billings coming from foreigners who spend in hard currency. While the country's total credit card membership of 1.6 million seems impressive, it has to be seen in the context of the fact that there are an estimated six million individuals who pay income tax. Thus, Rao feels much of the potential remains untapped.

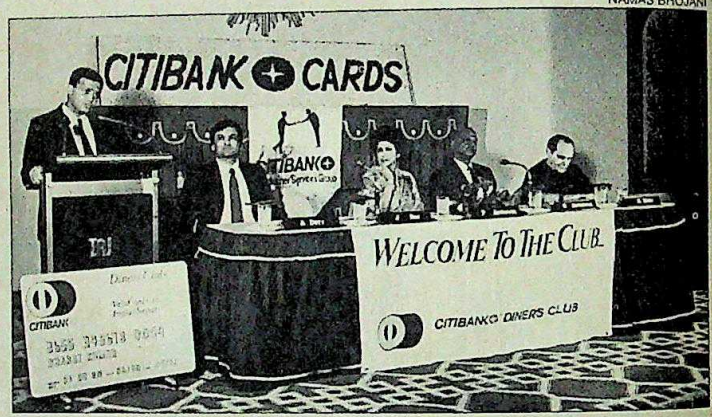
But it won't be a cakewalk. For Citibank's rivals are gearing up their resources. In recent years, half-a-dozen nationalised Indian banks have been slowly increasing their share of the credit card market. For the record though, V.S. Mehta, head of ANZ Grindlays' credit card operations says: "We welcome competition. It's healthy for the business." In any case, Grindlays credit card scheme currently has a membership of 12,000—way below Diners' 70,000 members.

Citibank says the acquisition meshes in neatly with the operations of the bank's Consumer Services Group (with deposits of around Rs 1,300 crore) which aggressively offers a range of services—mainly loans for consumer durables—tailored for affluent and middle class customers.

Says the personal banking chief of a foreign bank: "Citibank will be able to score over its rivals if it can provide the same level of service it provides through its Consumer Services Group." That presumably is what Rao has in mind.

—S.N. VASUKI

NAMAS BHOJANI



Rao addressing the Citibank Diners Club meeting

With rivals gearing up their resources, Citibank is headed for tough competition in the credit cards business.

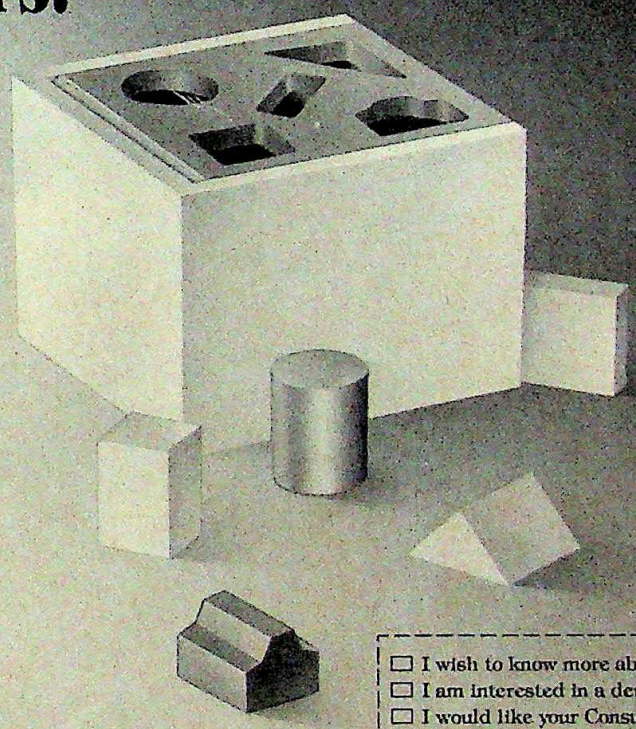
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Business Software from
Tata Consultancy Services.

TCS

BMS will fit any business, including yours.



The Business Management Series (BMS). It is a ready-to-use software package that does away with trial-and-error software implementation. So you save valuable time. And money. BMS – the most comprehensive business software package – that really works. And is working for hundreds of trading, manufacturing and service organisations.

BMS provides a complete solution for Financial Accounting, Accounts Receivable, Accounts Payable, Inventory Control, Purchase Order Monitoring, Sales Order Processing, Invoicing and Sales Analysis. BMS works on PC-XT/AT as well as on larger systems (UNIX).

Besides, BMS comes to you from Tata Consultancy Services. So you are assured of quality software and responsive customer service. TCS has a network of ten branches and 72 support centres all over India to provide you effective training and support.

So, do get in touch with us. And get BMS to work for you.

BMS. The safest buy.

☐ I wish to know more about BMS.
☐ I am interested in a demonstration.
☐ I would like your Consultant/Agent to call me.

Name: _____
Designation: _____
Co. Name/Address: _____
_____
_____
_____ Tel: _____

Please rush this coupon to:
Manager – MASTERKEY Software
Tata Consultancy Services - Nirmal
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021
Or phone: 287 3413/202 4828.
IT

MASTERKEY™
SOFTWARE PACKAGES FROM TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Contact: Tata Consultancy Services or your nearest Agent.

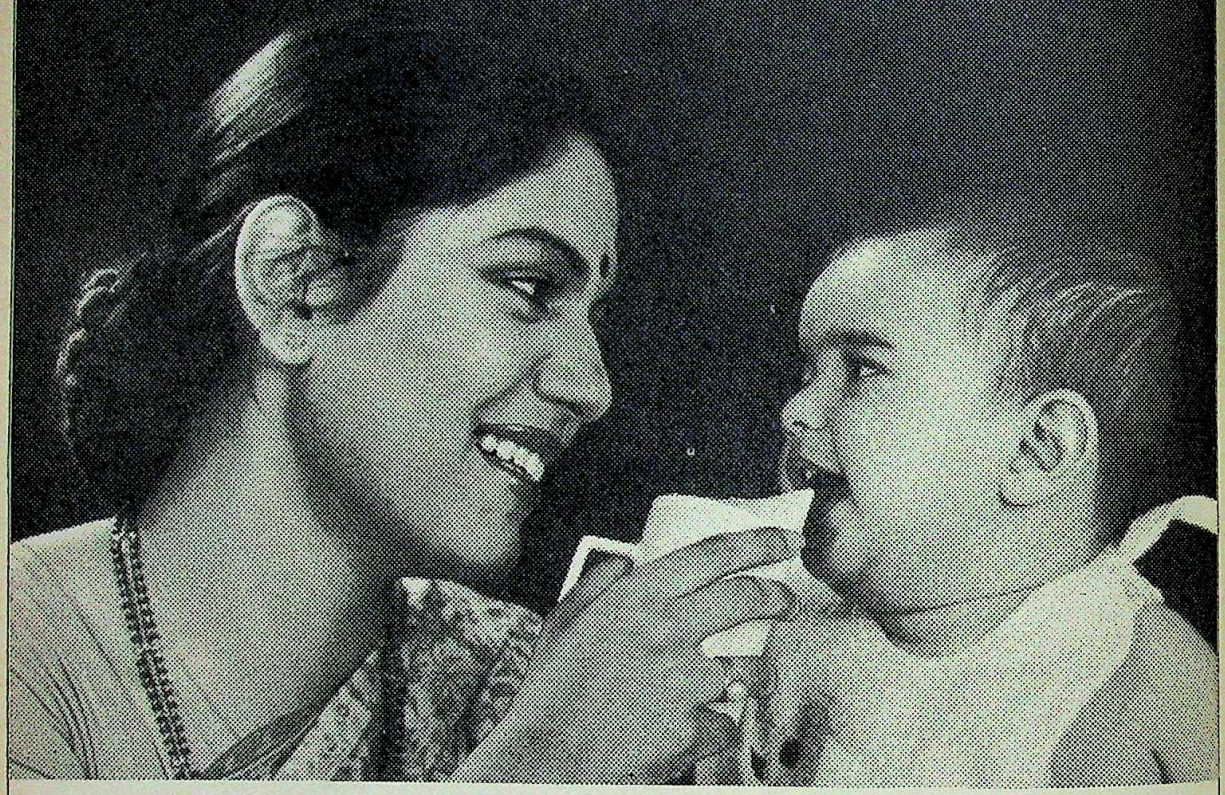
Or contact MASTERKEY at TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES: • BANGALORE: Pragathi, 70/1, Miller Rd. Tel: 262379/268376. • BHOPAL: 9/1, Shakti Nagar, Habib Ganj. Tel: 68285. • BHUBANESWAR: 363, Shahid Nagar, Janapath. Tel: 57409. • CALCUTTA: Nicco House, 2 Hare St. Tel: 209415/280744/288370. • CHANDIGARH: SCO 110-111, Sector 8-C, Madhya Marg. Tel: 40819. • HYDERABAD: Shakar Bhavan, 5-10-174, Fateh Maidan Road, Khairatabad. Tel: 231247/234493 • LUCKNOW: 16, Rana Pratap Marg. Tel: 249562. • MADRAS: 188, Lloyds Rd., Gopalapuram. Tel: 470516/470507. • NEW DELHI: Vikram Towers, 10th floor, Rajendra Place. Tel: 5726521/5739124.

CHAITRA-B TCS 271

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

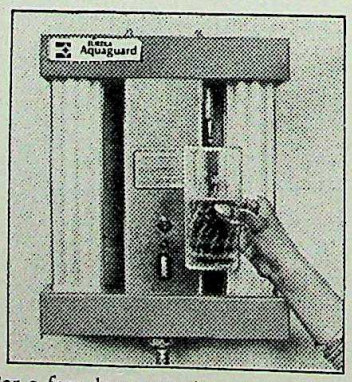
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Most of your baby's diet consists of water. Shouldn't you make sure it's really safe?



Your baby depends on you for care and nourishment. And despite a busy schedule, you make sure of utmost hygiene, knowing that safe drinking water is most important to the baby's health. You obviously take the trouble of filtering, boiling and cooling the water – everyday.

And yet you cannot totally eliminate the risk of water getting recontaminated while cooling, handling or when stored.



Aquaguard is uniquely designed to give you clear, safe, ready-to-drink water, at the flick of a switch!

No more tedious boiling and waiting for the water to cool. You can use it directly to prepare your baby's feed, anytime of the day or night!

Give your family the confidence of water from Aquaguard.

For a free demonstration at your home, write to:

EUREKA FORBES LIMITED
P.O. Box 936, G.P.O., Bombay 400 001.

Contact your nearest AQUAGUARD office today!

Ahmedabad: 446982; Bangalore: 211738; Baroda: 322681; Bombay: 2047870; Calcutta: 347799; Cochin: 352736; Coimbatore: 43180; Delhi: 6416143; Faridabad: 8257001; Goa: 6867; Hubli: 73291; Hyderabad: 844128; Jaipur: 70205; Jamshedpur: 24470; Ludhiana: 26877; Madras: 8250854; Mangalore: 32445; Pune: 667968; Surat: 54224; Trichy: 41867; Trivandrum: 79570; Vijayawada: 475964; Vishakapatnam: 53009.

Interpub/EFL/AG/7/90

Aquaguard for clear, safe drinking water.

On-line water filter-cum-purifier

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

FERTILISERS

Heads Roll

Industry in the doldrums

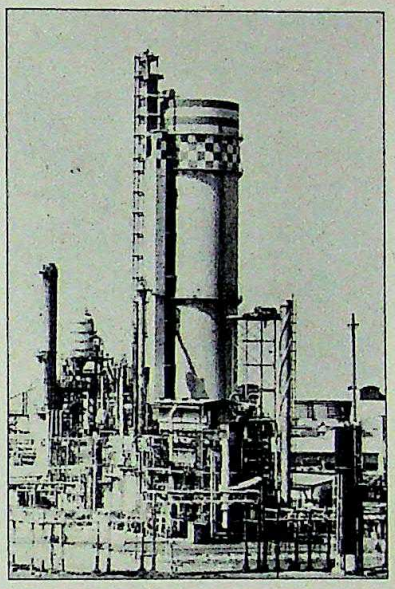
FOR a government which is avowedly pro-farmer, the inclement weather at the Department of Fertilisers in the Ministry of Agriculture is cause for considerable concern. The department has been without a secretary since Otima Bordia joined the Union Public Service Commission on May 11. And a day prior to that, Agriculture Minister Devi Lal suspended the chief executives of three of the country's largest and most profitable fertiliser companies: R. Venkatesan of Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilisers, K.K.S. Chauhan of Krishak Bharati Cooperative and S.N. Jain of National Fertilisers Ltd.

Earlier, in February, M.H. Avadhaney, head of Indian Farmers Fertiliser Cooperative, had been asked to quit. Last fortnight, another head rolled—the department's joint secretary, R.K. Anand, who has been suspended. The reason: these individuals are being probed by the CBI for their alleged involvement in two major scandals. The CBI will be soon filing first information reports in the two cases.

The first case has its origins early last year when the then minister of state for fertilisers, R. Prabhu, decided to form a Central Purchase Committee (CPC)—convened by Venkatesan and comprising the three other chief executives mentioned—to buy nearly 250 million jute bags for fertiliser companies. Prabhu said that centralised purchase would lower prices. But government sources say the price of each bag was 53 paise higher than what it should have been, resulting in a loss of over Rs 13 crore.

The CPC was first accused of 'arbitrarily' placing orders on seven Calcutta-based jute bag laminating companies, six of which are said to be controlled by one person, Mahadeo Kharkia. Then, the committee arrived at a out-of-court settlement with three jute mills which had filed a suit against CPC.

The second case under investigation is the deal struck by the Government in early 1989 with a Moroccan firm, OCP, to buy 4 lakh tonnes of phosphoric acid at $480 a tonne. This price was later felt to be too high and so purchases were not made. OCP then filed a suit for arbitration in the International Chamber of Commerce, Paris, claiming $160 million as damages. Meanwhile, the Government struck deals with other phosphoric acid suppliers at $432 a tonne. In end-October, the erstwhile agriculture minister, Bhajan Lal, overruled the objections of the then finance secretary, Gopi Arora, and went to Abu Dhabi to strike a settlement with the Moroccans: the suit was withdrawn and in return, India agreed to purchase 3 lakh tonnes of acid at $411.50.



The RCF unit: headless

> The losses of fertiliser companies have doubled in the last two years, and only three of 11 companies have made a profit.

Then, on November 20, the then commerce minister, Dinesh Singh, stated that the State Trading Corporation (STC) under the Commerce Ministry could have purchased phosphoric acid at $380 a tonne—implying a saving of around $10 million or over Rs 16 crore. Bhajan Lal justified his move in Parliament on April 25 by arguing that his decision resulted in a lowering of prices.

Says an STC official: "The fact is that India buys more than one-third of world exports of phosphoric acid. OCP didn't have a ghost of a chance of winning its suit and in October, we could have easily obtained prices lower than $411.50 a tonne." In fact, OCP offered rates of $404 a tonne in January this year in response to an STC tender.

Officials claim that by removing joint secretary Anand and the four chief executives, Devi Lal sought to hit out against his traditional rival Bhajan Lal. "But we are not questioning their professional credentials. We merely want to find out how the official machinery was misutilised and who received the kickbacks," says a source close to Devi Lal. "Work is progressing smoothly and the vacancies will be filled up soon," he added.

It better be. For the department's own annual report states that losses of public and cooperative sector fertiliser companies have doubled in the last two years and all but three of 11 such enterprises are in the red *(see table)*. Worse, three giant fertiliser plants which were supposed to be established along the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur gas pipeline have not yet come up, and the Rs 1,700-crore pipeline is currently operating at barely half its capacity. With all that, it is hardly surprising that the fertiliser industry wears a wilted look these days.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA

Table by MAHENDRA RATHORE

PUBLIC/COOPERATIVE FERTILISER COMPANIES: DEEPER IN THE RED

Profit/Loss in Rs crore

	1986-87	1987-88	1988-89	1989-90*
NFL	24.41	44.22	4.90	−17.30
FACT	41.45	12.90	7.72	−6.37
RCF	20.10	53.17	69.94	25.23
PPL	−8.26	−20.34	12.04	−37.80
MFL	6.64	−26.05	9.87	−6.69
PDIL	−0.39	−5.18	−9.52	−9.97
PPCL	0.46	0.88	1.21	−0.12
FCI	−102.53	−42.66	−191.24	−151.55
HFC	−86.22	−104.84	−156.38	−139.96
IFFCO	10.18	0.00	20.60	18.73
KRIBHCO	45.06	126.80	87.75	39.72
TOTAL	−49.10	38.90	−145.11	−286.08

*10-month

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CORPORATE PROFITS

Touching a New High

Companies come to terms with competition

THERE'S glee in plush corporate boardrooms across the country. Now it hardly seems the time for cheer with industrial growth having slowed down. Yet the paradox holds. For companies involved in as diverse fields as textiles, engineering, shipping, cement and even sunset industries like jute have reason to rejoice: shooting profit graphs.

Corporate captains seem unconcerned about official statistics which show a deceleration in industrial growth—which was only 7.5 per cent in 1987-88 compared to 9.1 per cent the previous year. No wonder, for with the stock-markets reasonably bouyant, investors are being rewarded with higher dividends and companies are busy charting out aggressive strategies to expand their market shares. Says D.H. Pai Panandikar, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry: "Industry is doing very well. No one is complaining. Profits are booming."

And corporate balance sheets make compelling reading:

► Gross profits of soaps and detergent giant Hindustan Lever went up by 12 per cent in the first nine months of the financial year. The reason: sales shot up by 19 per cent.

► Ballarpur Industries—a Thapar group paper concern—expects its profits to double this year from Rs 35 crore last year to Rs 70 crore. Says a visibly satisfied L.M. Thapar: "After five years of over capacity, demand is picking up with supply as there have been no new investments in the paper industry."

► Tata Tea's profits surged by a whopping 52 per cent in the first six months of the financial year though sales went up only 15 per cent. With growing demand of tea in the domestic market leading to a shortfall of 17 million kg tea this year, prices have surged.

This is not all. Computer manufacturer DCM Data Products was able to break even after many years of losses. Profits of Indian Aluminium went up fourfold in the first six months of the financial year from Rs 11.36 crore to a whopping Rs 45.50 crore. And according to a study made by the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy, gross profits of 327 companies have gone up by 39 per cent in the first half of the financial year 1989-90.

Investors, too, are getting a bite of the cake. Bajaj Auto made corporate history by announcing a dividend of 110 per cent trebling its previous 35 per cent. Food and consumer product giant HMM Ltd paid a dividend of 62 per cent up from 49 per cent.

So what is happening? Surely with good monsoons the farmer has more money to buy goodies now than he had in the drought years. Says Gurcharan Das, managing director of Procter and Gamble: "We have had two good monsoons which have accelerated the demand for goods."

Significantly, for the first time the corporate sector is learning to come to terms with competition which had eroded the profitability of many companies. Argues N. Vaghul, chairman of Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India: "The shock of 1986-87, when profitability fell, made companies change strategies. This has worked and profits are surging."

In fact, many are tapping the export markets with a new vengeance—especially after the Government exempted export profits from taxes. For instance, more than 50 per cent of the profits of textile manufacturers Rajasthan Spinning and Weaving Mills came from exports. Says Chairman L.N. Jhunjunwala: "There is a boom in exports and the diversion has in fact led to a shortage in the domestic market."

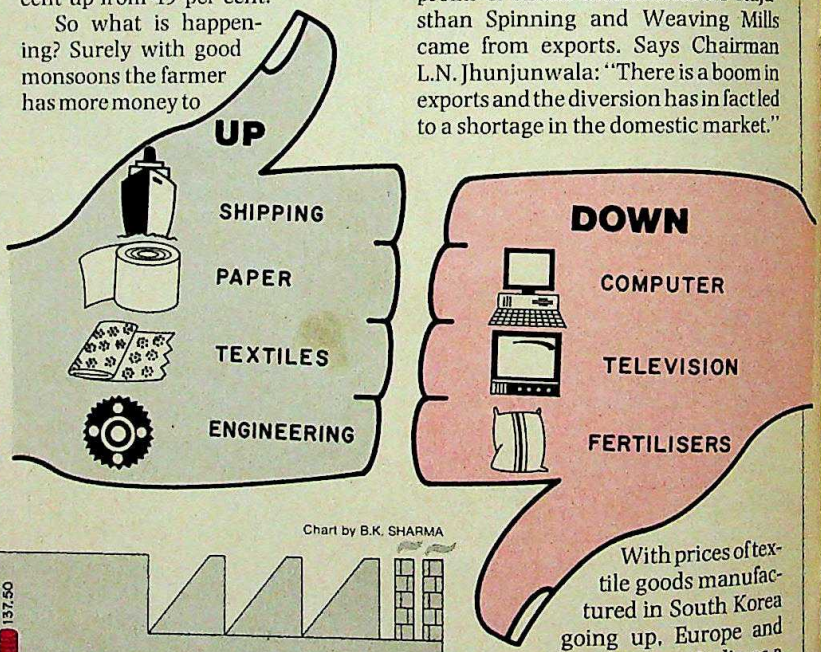
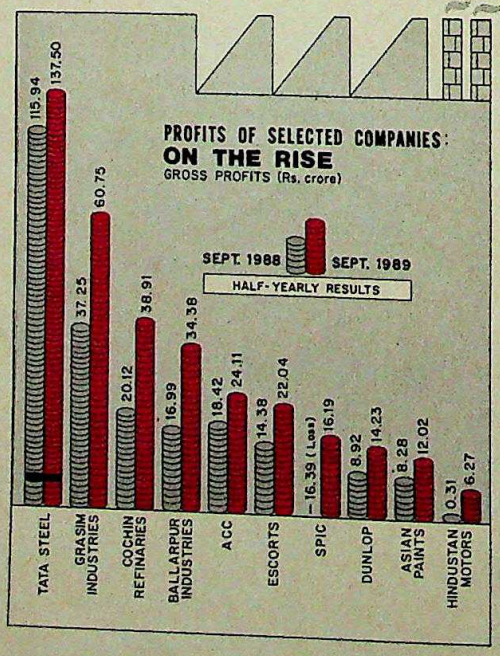


Chart by B.K. SHARMA



With prices of textile goods manufactured in South Korea going up, Europe and the US are looking to India as a major supplier.

With the market expanding, companies are brimming with orders. For instance, the order books of the machine tool industry are full till 1993-94. Says a Confederation of Engineering Industries spokesman: "Industry is feeling optimistic enough to invest in machinery. And unlike other years no one is complaining that import duties on machine goods have gone further down." A clear indication that the economy is in for good times.

Sick industries like jute are showing a new-found robustness after ailing for years. Says a magnate: "Between December

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

AIR CANADA'S GIFT TO ALL THOSE FLYING TO TORONTO.

LONDON
AT NO EXTRA CHARGE

When you fly Air Canada to Toronto, you can choose to enjoy a stopover in London.
At no extra charge.
Come, fly Air Canada to Toronto.
We wish you many happy returns.

Contact your Travel Agent or Air Canada.

Bombay - Toronto.
4 times a week.

A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

AirCanada

Air Canada Bombay 202-1111 ✱ GSA Ahmedabad 46-8545 ✱ Bangalore 23-9475 ✱ Calcutta 44-7783 ✱ Calicut 65757 ✱ Cochin 35-4193 ✱ Faridabad 812-6475 ✱ Goa 3338 ✱ Hyderabad 20-0997 ✱ Jaipur 77202 ✱ Jullundur 2488 ✱ Kanpur 21-2787 ✱ Madras 825-0884 ✱ Mangalore 32256 ✱ New Delhi 332-5876 ✱ Pune 66-7063 ✱ Tellicherry 22899 ✱ Trivandrum 68003.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Rediffusion/AC/90/142 b

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Creations for

Contract JCT 21783 C

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Thapar Group

for Masterpiece.

JCT FABRICS

SUITINGS • SHIRTINGS • DRESS MATERIALS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

When the phone rings, do you reach for the receiver or the air conditioner switch?

If you switch off the air conditioner every time you take a call because you can't hear a word. If you've had enough of noisy air conditioners, get yourself an Amtrex split. It has a separate condenser unit that's placed outside, so it makes no noise. And a perfectly streamlined air-delivery system inside. Which makes it the most noiseless split air conditioner available. To get one, raise your voice for one last time and call Amtrex.

AMTREX

SPLIT AIR CONDITIONERS

Available in split and multi split models of 1 to 4 tons. Amtrex Ambience Ltd. (A Lalbhai Enterprise). 'Rachana', Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad. Offices: Ahmedabad 383035/36 Baroda 326164 Bangalore 267302 Bhopal 555348 Bombay 233890 Calcutta 464837 Chandigarh 25147 Goa 22346 Hyderabad 210755 Indore Jaipur 77199 Lucknow 48670 Madras 451301 Nagpur 523786 New Delhi 6835989 Patna 221353 Pune 661693 Raipur 523322 Surat 38008 Vizag 66309

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

and March raw jute prices have surged by Rs 350 a quintal for the first time in seven years."

What's more, with the cost of investing in projects—from engineering to textiles—becoming more prohibitive there are not too many new ventures around. So demand is matching supply—and the days of large underutilised capacities are slowly becoming a thing of the past. Points out Y.K. Modi, managing director of Modi Alkali and Chemicals Ltd: "No new capacities have come up in the chemicals industry. So our utilisation of capacity has improved from 60 per cent to 80 per cent." The company which two years back was finding it difficult to repay its loans due to poor demand was able to pay back Rs 5 crore this year.

More importantly, with the demand for goods going up many companies are cashing in by hiking prices to ensure better margins. Says Ravikant Ruia, director of Essar Shipping: "The period of recession in the shipping industry is over. There is now a great demand for more charter ships." So charter rates of ships have more than doubled last year. Similarly cement manufacturers hiked up the price of cement in February and March this year—the peak off-take season. Admits S.M. Chakravarty, secretary-general of the Cement Manufacturers Association: "If this trend of prices continues cement manufacturers will show good profits this year."

But not everyone is riding the price-rise wave. Many industries are complaining that it has been a dismal year. Television manufacturers for instance have seen a 15-per cent drop in production due to sharp hikes in excise last year. Laments P.T. Vachani, chairman of Weston Electroniks: "Only a few companies have managed to make profits. Demand has fallen." Personal computer manufacturers are lamenting that the drop in prices is much higher than the fall in prices of components. And only three public sector fertiliser companies made profits.

However, the general mood is one of optimism. With fatter profits under their belt, the corporate sector is coming to terms with competition. But as a senior government official in the Finance Ministry points out: "The lag effect of good monsoons was reflected in higher profitability this year. The deceleration of industrial growth might have a lag effect next year in declining profits." A warning that the industry will do well to heed.

—SURAJEET DAS GUPTA

BUSINESSPEAK

S.V.S. RAGHAVAN

The Permit Raj Must Go

THE Government desperately wanted him. So in late-March, the Cabinet relaxed the age limit for chief executives of public sector enterprises and appointed S.V.S. Raghavan, 60, to head Bharat Business International Ltd (BBIL). The company was, however, registered only a month later. BBIL with its subsidiaries including the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation (MMTC) and State Trading Corporation (STC), is expected to have a turnover of over Rs 8,000 crore this year.

Raghavan had a chequered career: after he quit as chairman of Bharat Heavy Electricals Ltd (BHEL), he had brief stints with Ashok Leyland and Texmaco in Indonesia. He returned to the public sector as head of MMTC and was its longest-serving chairman for four years. In between, he held additional charge as STC chairman. He fell out with the Rajiv Gandhi government over the MMTC-Indian Express rent dispute. Incidentally, Express group Adviser S. Gurumurthy has been his tax consultant for a decade.

In the wilderness, Raghavan bided time teaching and advising six small and medium companies besides the wealthy Chanderia group of NRIs. Last fortnight, he talked to Principal Correspondent PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA.

DURING the '50s, India's share of world trade was around 2 per cent which shrunk to 1 per cent in the '60s and is currently below 0.5 per cent. This is an abysmally low figure for a country of continental economic dimensions such as ours.

Exports have to be stepped up further not just to finance our imports. Exports are necessary for economic growth per se. In terms of per capita availability of natural resources, India is perhaps closest to Japan which has negligible resources of its own. Some say we should not believe in export-led growth given our large domestic market. I feel that the export sector has to expand well beyond 6 per cent of our gross domestic product (GDP). While India will remain a major exporter of primary products—like iron ore, of which we have plentiful reserves—for some time to come, we have to stress exports of value-added manufactured products.

The problem with us Indians is that we only think of quality when it comes to exports. Products meant for the home market are assumed to be inferior in quality. I don't have faith in 100 per cent export-oriented units and I'm not surprised that many have proved to be failures. Liberalisation and competition at home is a *sine qua non* for stepping up exports. To use Rajaji's phrase, the permit-licence-quota raj is the biggest deterrent.

While we have liberalised our industrial policy to an extent, I think a lot remains to be done to streamline export procedures. An exporter has to fill up more than 50 forms. Our export-import policy is supposed to be valid for three years at a stretch but gets amended almost every other day.

I would like BBIL to play a role similar to that played by large Japanese trading conglomerates called sogo-shoshas which pick up information about demand patterns and prices from all corners of the world and disseminate it among numerous small concerns. Since, as in Japan, some 65 per cent of India's exports are made by the small sector, I want BBIL to be a catalyst as well as a creator of trade; to conserve foreign exchange and also earn it. Thus, BBIL will provide information, technology, funds and marketing services to exporters. It will also develop the infrastructure—such as modernise ports—by generating resources from exporters and importers. Who knows, we may even float a separate leasing and finance company. And above all, I want BBIL to stand on its own feet and not take a paisa from the Government's budget.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

COMMERCIAL LOANS

Costly Affair

Foreign banks hike rates

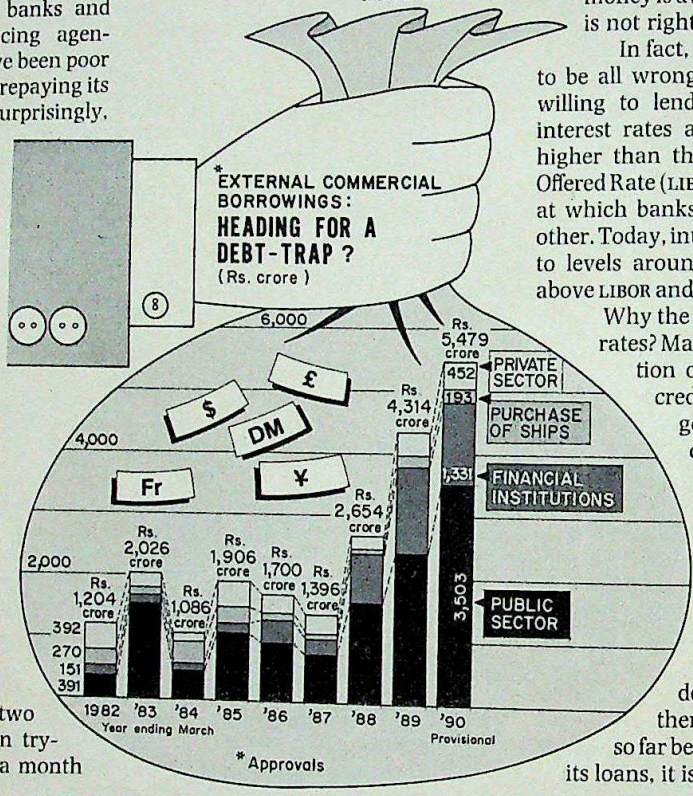
ONCE upon a time, India was the darling of foreign banks and international financing agencies. The country may have been poor but it had a reputation for repaying its debts on the dot. Not surprisingly, foreign banks were eager to hand out loans. And Indian institutions soliciting commercial loans abroad could demand—and get—relatively low interest rates.

All that's changing. Foreign banks are becoming increasingly tight-fisted about lending to India. And when at all they can be persuaded to open their fists, they are demanding exorbitant interest rates. Says an Indian representative of a foreign bank: "The days of cheap money are over."

That's evident from several recent deals. According to *International Financing Review* of London, two Japanese banks have been trying—unsuccessfully—for a month to put together a syndicated loan for the Industrial Finance Corporation of India (IFCI). Reason: other banks wouldn't join the consortium unless they got a higher rate and IFCI was unwilling to play ball.

The same fate befell two syndicated loans sought recently by the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. Complaining that the rates offered were not high enough, some well-known international banks backed out and finally the Japanese lead bank had to rope in a couple of smaller banks. Comments a Hong Kong-based Japanese banker: "The money is available but the pricing is not right."

Charts by B.K. SHARMA



In fact, the 'pricing' is getting to be all wrong. Earlier, banks were willing to lend money to India at interest rates around 0.25 per cent higher than the London Inter-Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), a benchmark rate at which banks lend money to each other. Today, interest rates are inching to levels around 0.29-0.33 per cent above LIBOR and may rise even further.

Why the sudden rise in interest rates? Many regard it as a reflection of a decline in India's credit standing, though government officials disagree. The principal reason for the decline is, of course, India's external debt—at Rs 83,000 crore, among the world's largest. And with the country running huge budget and trade deficits, it may grow further. So though India has so far been prompt in repaying its loans, it is a potential defaulter.

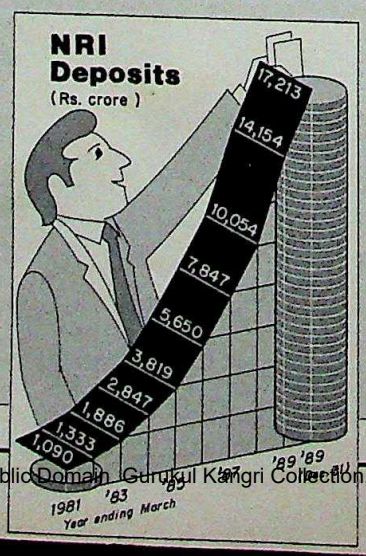
NRI DEPOSITS

Slowing Down

ECONOMISTS derisively call it 'hot money'. But bankers fall over each other to grab a piece of the action. The target: the pocketbooks of non-resident Indians (NRIs) who deposit a part of their hard currency earnings in Indian banks. Until recently, business was booming. Between 1980-81 and 1988-89, deposits from NRIs surged from Rs 1,090 crore to Rs 17,213 crore. And during April and December last year, deposits under the foreign currency non-resident (FCNR) scheme—which accounts for 64 per cent of all NRI deposits—grew by an impressive 35 per cent.

Today, however, bankers feel the days of dizzy growth rates—of 50 to 60 per cent—are over. "We have to be more aggressive in marketing NRI deposit schemes," says a senior executive of a foreign bank.

That's not going to be easy. A pound sterling deposit in a three-year FCNR account already fetches 12 per cent a year, far higher than the 8 per cent offered to resident Indians. So bankers feel that the Government has little scope to further hike interest rates. "NRIs so far have kept the country's foreign exchange reserves floating," says the chief of a financial institution. "We'll sink if the deposits dry up."



The fear is not totally unfounded. Remittances from the Middle East, which constitute a large but undisclosed portion of NRI deposits, are proving difficult to attract. The reasons are obvious: the Gulf boom has gone bust and many Indian workers are leaving for home. Still, bankers are hopeful that with increased white-collar migration to the Gulf, a new 'quality' segment has opened up.

Unlike bankers, Finance Ministry bureaucrats are not particularly pessimistic. They say that nearly Rs 3,000 crore of additional NRI deposits flowed into the country last year. Whether that tempo can be maintained is the big question.

—S.N. VASUKI

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

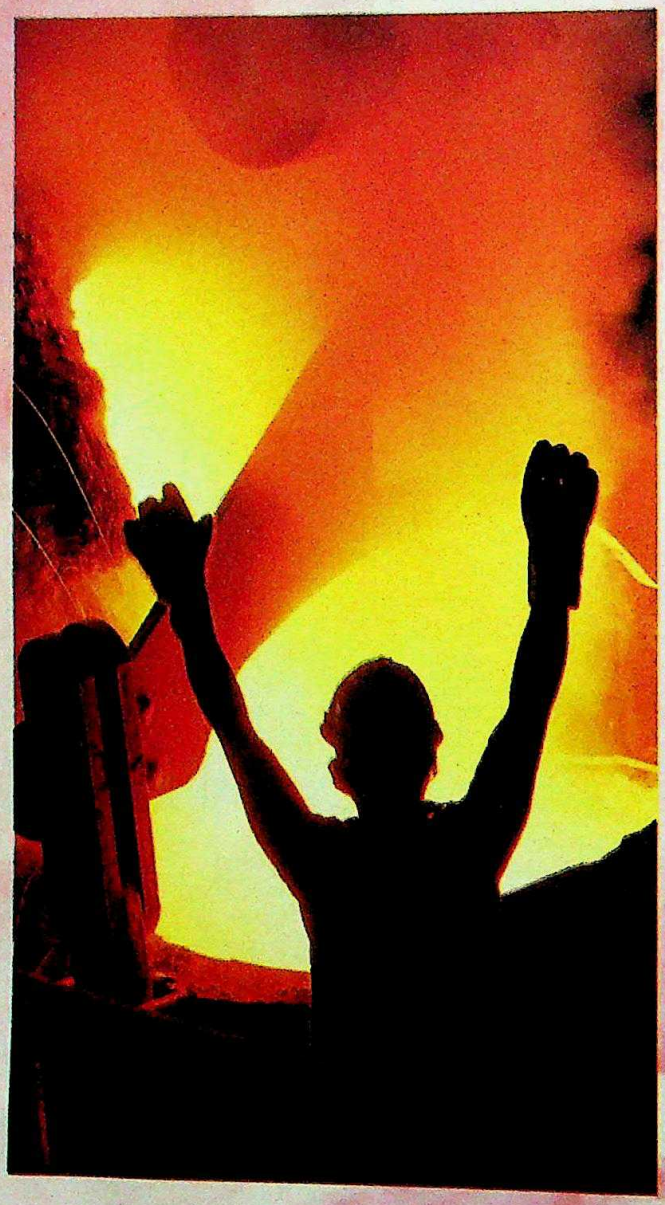
Some of our frequent travellers cannot even read

Lufthansa

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE ONLY COLLABORATOR JINDAL HAS EVER NEEDED TO DEVELOP WORLD-CLASS STEEL TECHNOLOGY.....



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JINDAL
TECHNOLOGY
MISSION

HAS BEEN JINDAL ITSELF.

Jindal. A group whose pioneering vision has created one indigenous breakthrough after another. The first indigenous pipe mill in the early sixties, now one of the country's largest producers of steel pipes and tubes. The first AOD Convertor for stainless steel refining, Continuous Slab Casting Machine and Hot Strip Mill. To emerge as one of the largest producers with the country's only fully integrated stainless steel plant. Jindal has also been the first to develop highly energy-efficient technology for Ferro-chrome and Ferro-nickel. And put up a 100% indigenous Ferro-chrome Plant, the most cost-efficiently run in the country. Today it is one of the largest manufacturers of Cold Rolled steel sheets including DD and EDD grades. The only one to make large diameter Submerged Arc Welded steel pipes using UOE process. And the first to set up a Direct Aluminium Strip Casting Plant.

Firsts that have been achieved through Jindal's in-house technology base. Raising it to a Rs. 600 crore group. And the flagship, Jindal Strips Ltd., to a position of leadership.

More significantly, Jindal's products not only save valuable foreign exchange by substituting imports, but also earn it through exports to extremely discerning buyers. A reflection of their world-class quality. And the high standards of Jindal technology. Created by a unique technology mission at Jindal itself.

JINDAL
WORLD-CLASS STEEL. MADE IN INDIA.

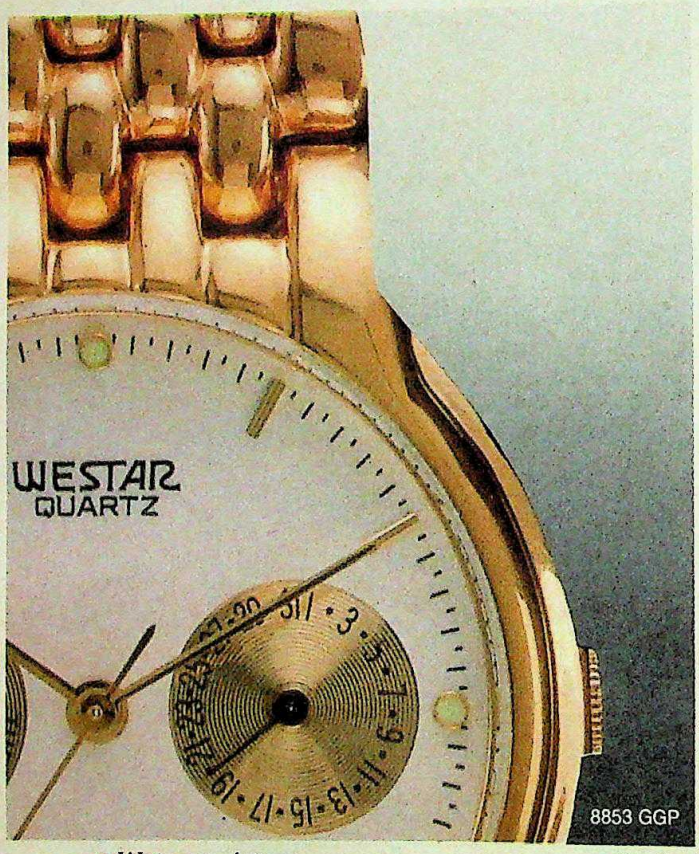
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Mudra D:JSL0077

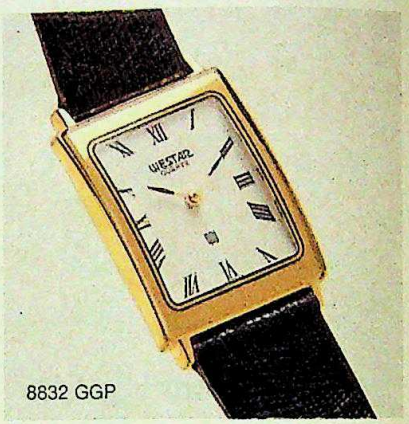
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WESTAR

TODAY'S WATCH



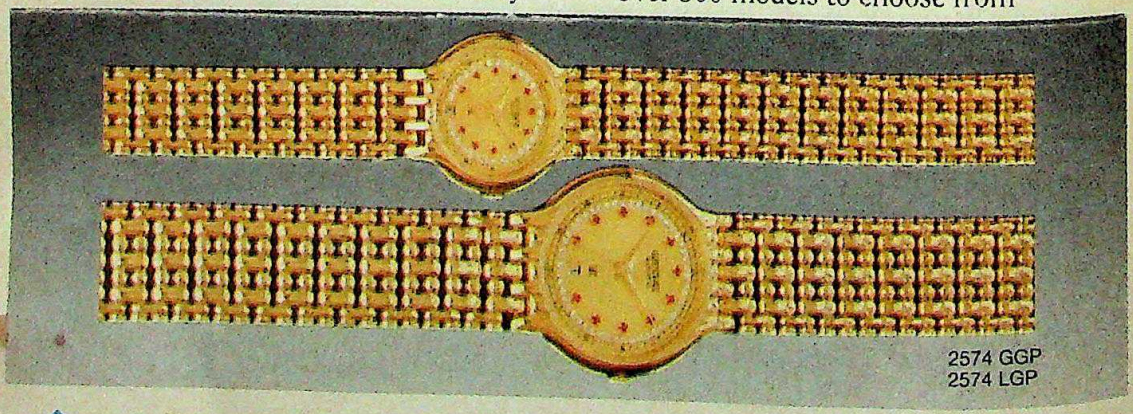
8853 GGP



8832 GGP

6545 GGP

- Water resistant
- 18 kt. gold electroplated
- Backed by international warranty
- Crafted to suit individual lifestyles
- Exquisite pair watches
- Over 300 models to choose from



2574 GGP
2574 LGP

Al-Futtaim watches
P.O. Box 7916, Dubai, UAE.

Dubai	Abu Dhabi	Sharjah	RAK	Al Ain
236186 - 224164 215227 - 282717 422563	329254 - 320590	353988	21368	661883

Hamad and Mohamed Al-Futtaim
P.O. Box 1427, Doha, Qatar.
Tel: 416147, 421857.

Oman Marketing and Services Company
P.O. Box 5734, Ruwi, Sultanate of Oman.
Tel: 793631, 562143.

GMASCO 0533/90

For information only.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some Indian bankers feel that the V.P. Singh Government, by not effectively projecting its policies overseas, has created an 'image' problem.

Others hold foreign banks partly responsible for the fall in credit standing. The reason: they take little or no part in international loan syndications and even when they do, they resort to 'asset sales' (selling their share of the loan to other banks for a profit). Says a financial consultant: "When a bank operating in India resorts to asset sales, other international banks wonder whether the local bank knows something which they don't." An American banker, however, denies that foreign banks' non-participation in India loans is a reflection of their loss of confidence in the country.

Whatever the truth, commercial loans are already proving expensive. In 1989, the country's outstanding commercial loans amounted to Rs 17,500 crore, 20 per cent of the country's total debt. And interest payments on these in 1988-89 were a hefty Rs 1,029 crore, around 8 per cent of commercial debt.

Expectedly, both Prime Minister V.P. Singh and Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate have been crying themselves hoarse about curbing commercial loans. But the options are limited. Already, the Government has received 10 applications from institutions wanting to raise foreign loans. Among them: the Shipping Credit and Investment Corporation of India which has invited bids for a $70 million (Rs 119 crore) financing arrangement, and Air India which has invited bids for lease financing two A 310 aircraft worth Rs 150 crore.

Finance Ministry sources feel there are three alternatives to commercial loans:

- Raise a loan from the International Monetary Fund. But the Government is hesitant because the Fund will insist on further liberalisation and a curb on subsidies, which may prove politically costly.
- Attract more bank deposits from NRIs. These, unfortunately, are showing signs of levelling off *(see box)*.
- Encourage foreign companies to invest in India. However, with the Government insisting that foreign investment will be allowed only on a 'selective' basis, there is unlikely to be a flood of such investments.

So in the short term, at least, there seems to be no alternative to commercial loans. Even if it means shelling out higher interest rates. —S.N. VASUKI

RURAL WINDOW BY MURAD ALI BAIG

The Combine Way

MAY marks the end of the *Rabi* (winter) harvest. Farmers still anxiously scan the skies as they hasten to gather in their crops. A gigantic golden carpet has been cut back to expose huge swaths of brown earth to the sky. A savage sun sucks up residual moisture to form the sudden summer storms that terrify the cultivators. Every farmer can recall the devastation of hail, the agony of a downpour, or the gusting dust storms that can blow away their past efforts and future dreams.

Jaswinder Singh Sandhu, descendant of a general of Raja Ranjit Singh, energetically supervises the harvest of his 20 acres near Ludhiana. Spread out before him is a wheat crop worth Rs 80,000 but he must get it cut, stacked, threshed, transported and stored immediately. There is a quality of near desperation as he and his neighbours seek the services of combine harvesters. "The combine costs me Rs 250 an acre. I will also lose about Rs 800 an acre in straw, but I can finish all my harvesting in one day. Manual labour would only harvest about a quarter of an acre per person per day. Labour is scarce—it would just take too long," he says.

Neighbours awaiting their turn, exchange angry words, if they feel they may be bypassed. Each combine is manned by about 10 men, including four drivers, who take short turns driving through a cloud of dust and broken straw. The machines only stop for a few hours in the early morning when the dew makes the wheat stalks damp.

The Government has announced a generously high procurement price and has tried to reassure their anxieties, but farmers are a suspicious lot. Rajinder Singh, a government official who is also a farmer, confessed: "This year we must sell quickly, because the Government warehouses may fill up or the procurement agencies may not be able to respond in time. In the old days we could fight with the *arhthis* (grain merchants), but after the foodgrain take-over we can't stop these government babus from cheating us. They undergrade or short weigh our crops. The old *arhthi* was undoubtedly a rascal and a speculator, but he was also our friend. He would advance us loans. All farmers are in debt after the long sowing period. Today we are totally dependent on banks and the Government, where nobody bothers about the common man."

This year India's wheat crop could exceed last year's record. About 20 per cent of India's total wheat will be procured by the Government; about 30 per cent will stay with the cultivators. And about half the crop will flow through private trade channels to feed the flour mills and reach consumers in remote corners of the country. The Government machinery generates around 500,000, usually inefficient jobs for procurement, storage and distribution, which burden the taxpayers and the consumers. If speculation was the main defect of private traders, it could have been contained by pre-emptive buying and selling from government stocks within defined price bands, as is the system in most countries. It would be more effective and economical. But then it would offer few opportunities for politics, nepotism and corruption.

Sandhu with his harvester

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IF YOU HAVE THESE FASHIONABLE VITAL STATISTICS, WE COULD MAKE YOU VERY RICH.

9m. X 9m.

In fact, anything between 75 and 90 sq. m. will do. But it must be in the plum, exclusive shopping area of town.

You can turn this asset into a highly profitable franchise operation for a leading international brand of menswear. Louis Philippe.

Now in India with an extensive range of readymade garments and accessories. Through Madura Coats.

Providing an access to the latest trends in styling and design of worldclass readymade garments.

So, if your space faces a main road in a major city with a frontage of atleast 8 m. and you are interested in owning the most fashionable address in town, write in immediately giving locational details to:

Madura Coats Ltd.
P.O. BOX NO. 340, BANGALORE 560 003.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MCL 02

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE MARKETS

Jittery Phase

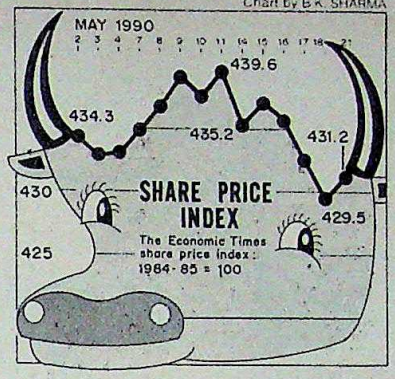
Share prices zig zag

MID-SUMMER blues seemed to be setting into the country's capital markets. The upsurge in share prices had been arrested. Indices of scrip values continued to zig-zag. What were the reasons for such bearish sentiments?

It appears that quite a few budgetary reliefs were expected during Finance Minister Madhu Dandavate's reply to the debate on the Finance Bill in Parliament. But these concessions failed to materialise. The changes that were made were cosmetic in nature. Dandavate was clear that the income tax exemption limit would not be hiked and that petrol and diesel prices would not come down. As for the demand of industry and trade associations that the investment allowance scheme for companies be re-introduced, they might as well have asked for the moon.

The war games being played along the country's border with Pakistan continued to sent jitters down the

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



spines of Dalal Street's operators. Which was indeed curious because more and more people were veering round to the view that a war would be averted. And the Government's decision to equalise the excise duty rates on two competing raw materials for synthetic fibres—purified terephthalic acid and di-methyl terephthalate—failed to elicit much of a reaction on the share values of industry bigwigs, Reliance and Bombay Dyeing.

The result: market sentiments plunged. So *The Economic Times* all-India share index, after rising from 434.3 on May 2 to 439.6 a week later, came down steadily to 429.5 on May 18. Two days later, the index rose marginally. But it was still a good 12 points below the April 4 peak of 443.1.

The set-back in share values was, to some extent, a consequence of erstwhile bulls liquidating their holdings of blue-chip scrips like ACC and TELCO. Bearish pressure on the Tata Steel (ordinary) share was particularly pronounced with the Union Steel Minister Dinesh Goswami stating that steel pricing would not be decontrolled. And the Hindustan Aluminium scrip lost ground even though the company put out creditable financial results, hiked dividends on an enhanced equity base and declared a 3:5 bonus issue.

Even as company after company announced that their profits had jumped, the markets paid no heed. The question being asked was whether the state-owned financial institutions would intervene to stem the slide. Especially at a time when the Government was taking a tough line on converting Larsen & Toubro debentures into shares. Late last fortnight, the institutions seemed to be gearing up to enter the market in a big way after having maintained a rather low profile for weeks. But it was too early to say whether such an intervention would lift the melancholy mood.

ACTIVE STOCKS

	1990 HIGH	1990 LOW	CLOSE 21.5.90	Change in Fortnight
Ashok Leyland	99.00	69.50	88.50	0.50 –
Associated Cement	480.00	325.00	463.00	29.00 +
Asian Paints	255.00	207.50	237.50	3.75 +
Atlas Copco	48.00	32.50	37.00	nil
Bajaj Auto	467.50	355.00	442.50	15.00 –
Baroda Rayon	910.00	617.50	873.75	31.25 +
Bata India	83.00	62.50	71.00	3.00 –*
Ballarpur	161.00	120.00	155.00	2.00 +
Birla Jute	82.00	50.50	77.00	2.50 +
Blow Plast	60.00	34.50	57.00	5.75 +
Bombay Dyeing	232.00	173.00	212.50	9.50 +
Britannia Ind.	119.00	97.00	117.00	2.00 +
Brooke Bond	123.00	91.00	116.00	0.50 +
Century Textiles	3420.00	2420.00	3310.00	140.00 +
Colgate Palmolive	233.75	176.25	215.00	10.00 +
Cyanamid	123.75	87.50	120.00	14.00 +
DCM	60.00	45.50	54.25	0.25 +
Dunlop	75.50	51.75	61.00	5.00 –
E.I. Hotels	65.25	56.00	58.00	1.50 –
Escorts	90.00	77.75	88.50	1.50 +
Finolex Cables	282.50	200.00	212.50	7.50 +
Nestle India	129.00	101.75	119.00	0.50 +
Garware Nylon	69.00	49.00	58.00	6.00 +
G.E. Shipping	54.75	44.00	46.75	3.75 –
G.S.F.C.	195.00	155.00	188.75	11.25 +
Grasim Ind.	134.50	106.00	130.00	1.50 +
Hind. Aluminium	303.75	205.00	275.00	8.75 –
Hind. Ciba	1660.00	960.00	1370.00	90.00 +
Cadbury India	172.50	133.75	160.00	1.25 +
Hindustan Lever	125.00	101.00	116.50	1.25 +
Hindustan Motors	37.20	19.80	32.50	2.70 +
ICI India Ltd.	49.50	35.25	37.50	nil
Indian Organic	62.50	46.50	60.25	5.75 +
Indian Rayon	113.50	84.00	108.00	0.50 –
Indrol	247.50	161.25	235.00	12.50 +
Ingersoll-Rand	245.00	190.00	220.00	nil
ITC	75.50	48.75	74.50	7.00 +
J.K. Synthetics	67.00	50.00	59.00	2.00 +
Kinetic Engineering	155.00	130.00	148.00	5.50 +
Kirloskar Cummins	90.00	65.00	80.00	6.00 +
KSB Pumps	227.50	185.00	185.00	41.25 –
Larsen & Toubro	122.00	57.00	77.00	7.00 +
Lipton	112.00	83.00	88.50	1.50 –
LML Ltd.	21.00	15.00	18.50	2.00 +
Madura Coats	118.00	100.50	118.00	7.00 +
M&M	103.00	67.50	86.25	nil
Milk Food	280.00	160.00	170.00	20.00 –
Motor Industries	1200.00	785.00	840.00	20.00 +
Mukand Ltd.	157.00	127.00	135.00	2.00 +
National Organic	1660.00	1070.00	1340.00	110.00 +
Nirlon	22.00	13.00	13.00	2.00 –
Orkay Silk Mills	20.50	14.50	16.00	0.75 +
Peico Electronics	32.50	24.00	30.25	2.75 +
Pfizer	113.75	72.50	87.50	7.50 +
Premier Auto	74.50	53.50	61.00	1.00 –
Raymond	87.50	70.00	86.00	4.50 +
Reckitt & Colman	244.00	178.00	209.00	4.00 +
Reliance Industries	90.00	50.00	63.50	2.00 –
Siemens India	123.50	96.00	114.00	2.00 +
Shaw Wallace	96.00	65.00	91.00	1.00 +
Shriram Fibres	71.00*	51.25	54.00	2.00 –
SKF Bearings	1570.00	1240.00	1460.00	110.00 +
SPIC	62.00	50.75	60.25	4.25 +
Tata Steel	136.50	103.25	115.00	1.75 –
Telco	153.00	110.00	142.00	8.50 –
Vam Organic	167.50	132.50	138.75	1.25 +
Videocon Int.	280.00	105.00	247.50	18.75 +
Voltas	78.50	63.00	70.00	3.75 –
Wimco	32.50	15.75	18.00	1.00 +
Hoechst	2300.00	1295.00	2120.00	285.00 +

*Ex-dividend

WORLD VALUE OF RUPEE

			TT Selling Rates Rs	TT Buying Rates Rs
Australia	Dollar	1	13.3873	13.2381
Austria	Shilling	100	148.6353	147.3704
Bahrain	Dinar	1	46.6688	45.5685
Bangladesh	Taka	100	53.0237	51.6896
Canada	Dollar	1	14.8842	14.7233
Denmark	Kroner	1	2.7612	2.7312
Egypt	Pound	1	6.7821	6.6600
France	Franc	1	3.1546	3.0769
Hong Kong	Dollar	1	2.2488	2.2251
Indonesia	Rupiah	100	0.9577	0.9426
Iran	Rial	100	25.5368	25.2559
Italy	Lira	100	1.4331	1.4159
Japan	Yen	100	11.6144	11.3250
Kenya	Shilling	1	0.8101	0.8009
Kuwait	Dinar	1	59.7195	57.7201
Malaysia	Dollar	1	6.4687	6.3991
Mauritius	Rupee	1	1.1903	1.1740
Nepal	Rupee	1	0.6107	0.6023
Netherlands	Guilder	1	9.3671	9.2649
Pakistan	Rupee	1	0.8215	0.8092
Singapore	Dollar	1	9.4414	9.3383
Spain	Peseta	1	0.1691	0.1667
Sri Lanka	Rupee	1	0.4380	0.4329
Sweden	Kroner	1	2.8898	2.8579
Switzerland	Franc	1	12.2362	12.1006
Tanzania	Shilling	1	0.0946	0.0911
Thailand	Baht	100	68.3508	66.8572
UK	Pound	1	29.4681	29.2528
USA	Dollar	1	17.4978	17.3130
UAE	Dirham	1	4.7665	4.7131
USSR	Rouble	1	28.1995	27.8801
W. Germany	Deutschmark	1	10.6383	10.3734

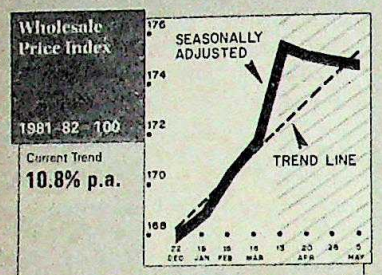
These rates were supplied by The Bank of Tokyo Limited, New Delhi and quoted between the banks on 22.5.90.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

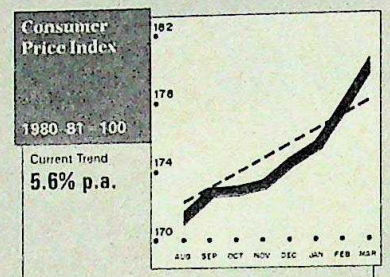
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Consumer prices indicate a possibility of double digit inflation, a major worry for the Government. However, later data on the wholesale price index bring some good news for the policy makers—the budget does not seem to have affected the price level very much so far. However, the other side of the coin is that there are indications of a possible recession. This would be an equal cause for concern. Trade figures too were quite disappointing this month.

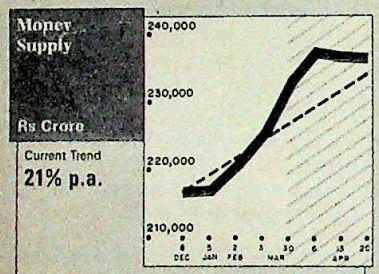
All data are seasonally adjusted. Current trends are computed on the basis of six months' (weekly data) or one-and-a-half years' (monthly data) figures.



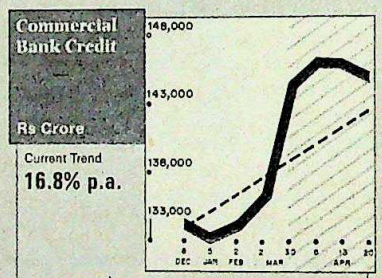
Wholesale prices remained stationary—in fact showing a marginal decline—good news for those who drafted the tough budget.



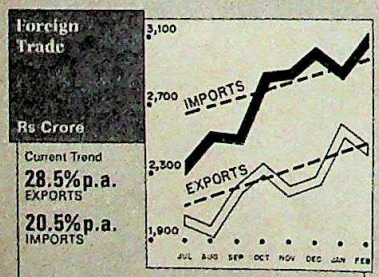
Consumer prices increased sharply in the course of the last month—recording a double digit inflation rate.



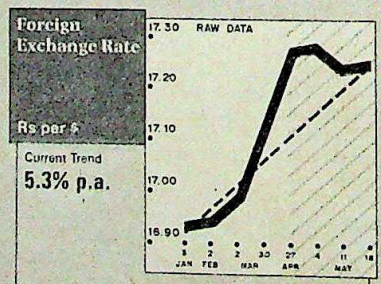
Money supply remained under control. This is a positive sign and important if prices are to be controlled in the long term.



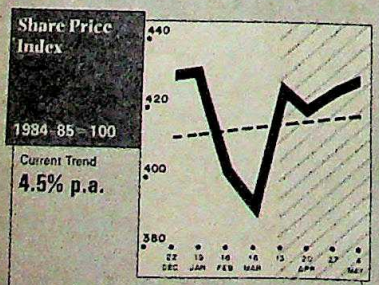
Credit conditions for industry were very light—total credit actually contracted in absolute terms.



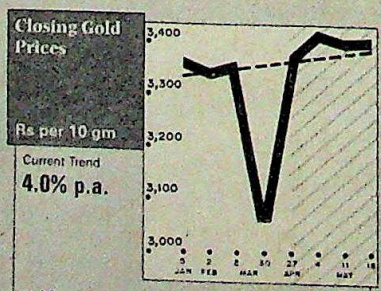
Both exports and imports dropped last month—but exports dropped slightly more than imports.



Devaluation of the rupee continues, slowly but steadily. As a result of this, the export sector should benefit.



A slight improvement in the stock-market—but no real indication yet of a long-term change in mood.



Gold prices remained more or less steady as the bullion market adopts a "wait and watch" approach.

WHOLESALE PRICES

Growth of items in the 2nd fortnight of April 1990

	% Growth
Betel-Nuts	9.12
Solvent extracted oil	5.78
Mustard Oil	5.22
Lubricating Oil	5.18
Tea	4.88
Oranges	4.77
Bananas	4.66
Tobacco Raw	4.35
Vanaspati	4.06
Bajra	3.85
Khandsari	3.77
Chillies	3.77
Machine Tools	3.64
Linseed Oil	3.30
Rape & Mustard Seeds	2.94
Cement	2.41
Gram	2.32
Coir Fibre	1.83
Groundnut Seeds	1.77
Wheat	1.70
Gingelly Oil	1.70
Gingelly Seed	1.63
Mustard Oilcake	1.33
Arhar	1.03
Coffee	1.02
Cashew-nut	0.99
Cars	0.74
Jowar	0.70
Cotton seeds	0.57
Tractors	0.48
Dry cells	0.48
Electrical Motors	0.45
Coconut Oil	0.39
Cigarettes	0.39
Diesel Engines	0.38
Diesel Oil	0.30
Copper & Alloys	0.28
Butter	0.25
Petrol	0.24
Tyres	0.20
Moong	0.19
Urad	0.19
Tubes	0.19
Cycles	0.12
Electricity	0.10
Nylon/Terene and Mixed Cloth	0.09
Cotton Raw	0.08

Of the 139 series considered, 103 of them with a total weight of 63.489 had a positive growth and 31 of them with a total weight of 21.363 had a negative growth.

SELECTED INDICATORS

	1990	1989
Coal Thousand Tonnes, March	23780	22020
Saleable Steel Thousand Tonnes, March	978.9	967.6
Cement Thousand Tonnes, March	4540	4169
Electricity Total Million kWh, March	21930	20456
Fertilisers Thousand Tonnes, March	759.9	687.5

Compiled by THE POLICY GROUP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Seasons change

A Classic is forever

The charm of
Mysore Sandal Classic
lingers all through the year.
Gently softening and
moisturising your skin.

Mysore Sandal

Classic

Come summer, monsoon or winter

This soap contains natural sandal oil, refined glycerine and 100% distilled base

FROM THE HOUSE OF MYSORE SANDAL SOAP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

1989

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DCM
1990

DCM GETS SET TO LEAD THE FAST TRACK

990

The Marathon is over.
Major issues such as industrial obesity,
corporate fatigue are behind us.
DCM springs back
with lightning reflexes
to respond to the emerging needs
of today's decade.
The decade of the challenging 90's.
Watch the DCM decade begin with
swift technologies in the areas of
Electronics, Computers,
Automobile Engineering,
Real Estate and Construction,
Nylon and Spun Fibres.
With the power of
DCM Data Products, DCM Toyota,
DCM Engineering,
DCM Real Estate and SRF
to energise innovations, breakthroughs.
Lead. Dominate. The Fast Track.
With a younger leadership.
Younger brain power.
Younger vision.
Because the trimmer you are,
the faster you are.
To race into the future.

THE DCM GROUP

D C M LIMITED, KANCHENJUNGA, 18, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001.

IN PERFECT SHAPE FOR THE FUTURE.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MILESTONES/DCM/442a

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CARTIER. THE TANK WATCH

CREATED TO HONOUR THE AMERICAN HEROES OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR. A CASE IN 18 CARAT GOLD DESIGNED ON THE PURE, GEOMETRIC LINES OF THE POWERFUL VEHICLES WHOSE NAME IT BEARS. ELEGANT, REMARKABLY ACCURATE, ADORNED WITH A SAPPHIRE AND FEATURING THE FAMOUS FOLDING BUCKLE, THE TANK® WATCH BY CARTIER IS A MASTER CREATION. FOREVER CONTEMPORARY, IT IS QUITE SIMPLY "THE WATCH".

® Trade-Mark registered by the Cartier Group

must de Cartier
Paris

Cartier

THE ART OF BEING UNIQUE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PAKISTAN

Celluloid Vengeance

Bizarre film on Islam's revenge on Salman Rushdie

Photograph by PRASHANT PANJIAR

A Karachi hoarding for the film

AT Karachi's Nasheman cinema hall the crowds have no patience. It is the premiere show of *International Guerillas* (spelled International Gorillay in the hoardings), a controversial film on Islam's revenge on Salman Rushdie produced in Lahore and released last month. The British have already refused to air the film on their ethnic Channel Four television programme, inviting protests from Muslims in Bradford. Also, the cream of Pakistani filmdom—Babra Sharif, Neeli and Javed Shaikh—are all there.

The film opens with a meeting of crooks. Wine glasses clink and the chief complains that Islam, with its hundred crore followers, is threatening Zionists. In comes the Salman Rushdie look-alike—who some say is better looking than the original—spectacles resting on the bridge of his prominent nose. He accepts the challenge of destroying Islam despite the risk of facing death squads and being called *"kutta"* for the rest of the film.

His nemesis too appears immediately—a deputy superintendent of Karachi police who has two Robin Hood type brothers-in-law, one of them played by Javed Shaikh. The traitor within the police ranks is a DIG—who happens to be in the pay of foreign agents. The only redeeming feature of the DIG is his stunning sister (Neeli) who is also a police inspector.

A procession to protest Rushdie's book is being taken out. Neeli and the DSP resign and join the processionists. The DIG fires at the crowd, killing the DSP's two teenaged children. "Don't die," screams Javed Shaikh bending over his niece. Her last words: "No uncle. I won't live. But that *kutta* Salman Rushdie must die."

Back home, the DSP's wife is bent over the prayer rug, seeking just one favour from her god: death to Salman Rushdie. The campaign kicks off in right earnest with the DSP and his brothers-in-law raiding the house of the traitorous DIG. The honour of shooting him goes to sister Neeli. Sacrifices over, it's time to hunt Rushdie.

Cut to a tropical island, presumably in the Philippines as everyone disembarks from an Air Philippines jet. Rushdie apparently owns the entire island, including the mansion and helipad, guarded by a regiment of commandos. He even has a renegade Sheikh from Dubai bringing him caches of arms. The commandos have caught a whole clutch of 'Islamic guerillas' who'd come to kill Rushdie.

Rushdie appears, all smiles. Under his direction, some of the guerillas are hanged from palm trees ringing the island. The others—of various nationalities—get his personal attention. He picks up a scimitar and slashes their throats one by one. The deed done, he wipes the scimitar with a towel and holds it close to his nose. Deep breath.

"Captain J.C. (for Jesus Christ), I did such a smart thing by hiring you from the army of the *yehudis*. But tell me what magic have you got that you can catch these Islamic guerillas so easily?" Rushdie asks the chief of his troopers. "I have a marvellous pair of eyes, sharper than X-rays which can tell an Islamic guerilla out of a crowd of thousands," J.C. boasts. Rushdie wants to see the eyes.

Lightning. A clash of cymbals. The camera zeroes in on a sizeable derriere. Then an ample bosom. "Babra Sharif" shouts the audience even before the face comes on screen. Immediately, the lady breaks into a raunchy dance—in the course of which she changes her cabaret-type attire four times.

She changes garb again. This time for the blue-grey uniform of a Filipino police-woman at the Manila airport immigration counter. Her eyes look piercingly at each new arrival. The DSP and brothers-in-law can't get past those piercing eyes.

The rest of the film is a medley of car chases, motorcycle callisthenics and pyrotechnics as J.C.'s troopers chase the Islamic guerillas who survive by superior skill and courage and frequently by invoking divine intervention. Till they are caught and brought to the island.

The audience awaits an encore of the scimitar act, but Rushdie has something else in mind. Torture. Electric shocks. The guerillas are helpless.

But just when it seems too late for divine intervention, copies of the holy book appear from all corners of the room and send out beams of electricity that electrocute Rushdie to the accompaniment of wild cheering.

This in a city where the mother of the real Rushdie lives!

—SHEKHAR GUPTA in Karachi

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Focussing the Undergarments World for you —

In the realm of the undergarments, the TT's rise to leadership has not been of the zig-zag motion—it simply shot to prominence by virtue of its abundant mass appeal due to comfort-giving values in all its products, while not sacrificing the factor of economy. Having a successful track record TT's existence spans nearly two decades of excellence in growth, diversification and profitability. TT's popularity owes to its pursuit for excellence that springs from the leadership values maintained through meaningful accomplishments.

Parichay

T.T.

UNDERWEAR-BANIAN-BRA-PANTIES-SOCKS-T.SHIRTS

the mark of excellence for over 25 years T.T.

TIRUPATI TEXKNIT LTD.

12 New Colony, Model Basti, New Delhi-110 005

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ISKCON

Existential Crisis

Multi-million dollar suit threatens future of sect

IN the last month or so "Save Hindu temples in America" posters have come up all over walls in Indian cities. The campaign is an echo of a desperate battle being waged by a few thousand shaven-headed, ochre-robed followers of Lord Krishna in the US.

The casus belli—which has lately seen the devotees marching down Washington DC's Pennsylvania Avenue in front of the White House—is a multi-million dollar damage award against ISKCON (International Society for Krishna Consciousness), won by a Californian, Marcia George. She alleged that her teenage daughter, Robin, had been brainwashed and held against her will by ISKCON.

Matters in the long legal battle—which began in 1977—came to a head in March when Judge James A. Jackman of the California Superior Court ordered that five ISKCON temples, including the Los Angeles headquarters, be auctioned off to pay the damages awarded to the plaintiffs. The Krishnas, as the American press calls them, have asked the Supreme Court to hear their appeal. They have a reprieve: Justice Sandra Day O' Connor stayed the sale of the group's assets until the court decides if it will hear the appeal.

ISKCON faced a similar crisis in 1976 when its founder Prabhupada contested a brainwashing case and won. But the present dispute is undoubtedly more serious. In 1974, 15-year-old Robin became an ISKCON devotee, wearing a sari to school and going to the nearby Laguna Beach temple. Some months later, she joined the group full-time in New Orleans. A year later, after many interventions by her parents, Robin returned home, reportedly at the society's pleading. Soon after, her father James George died. Then she and her mother sued ISKCON for false imprisonment, intentional infliction of emotional distress, libel, and James George's "wrongful death". ISKCON officials insist Robin could have got in touch with her parents, but chose not to.

In June 1983, a California jury ruled in favour of the Georges and ordered ISKCON to pay $32.5 million (Rs 55 crore) in damages. Appellate courts have since reduced the award to about $5 million (Rs 8.5 crore). But the society still claims this would wipe it out and set a dangerous precedent.

Protest march in Washington DC

"They want to wipe us out because we are a threat to the materialistic American existence," says Lokanath Swami, a senior ISKCON priest. "Our only mistake," he adds, "was in trying to protect Robin from the parents she wanted to stay away from."

"The punitive damages are intended to extinguish the Krishna religion," says David Lieberman, attorney for the group. "Making the society pay would mean giving one disgruntled person the power to suppress the rights of thousands of believers of a minority religion."

Society members also believe that the trial painted a distorted picture of Hinduism. And they are supported by other groups. "Our Hindu scriptures were ridiculed and pictures of our deities scorned," says V.P. Mody, president of the Washington-based Hindu Alliance. Adds he: "Our beliefs in reincarnation and vegetarianism were characterised as psychologically destructive."

But the Georges' lawyers claimed there was no evidence that the $5 million damages would put ISKCON out of business. Attorney Lynde Selden said the Krishnas were falsely pleading poverty. In fact, the society is reported to have property all over the world but refused to divulge its assets during the trial. Tax assessor records showed that it owned property worth millions of dollars in southern California.

What is interesting is the ingenious legal angle chosen by the group. It claims the future of minority religions is at stake and that if one minority religion is defamed and its places of worship are placed in jeopardy, the same thing could happen to Catholics, Jews and Protestants. In fact, the society got a big boost when the National Council of Churches of New York joined the brief filed in the Supreme Court describing the case as "maybe the single most important religious liberty case ever filed in this court".

So, the society plans to explain its stand through a big advertisement which shouts "Hindu Persecution in America" and go on to solicit contributions to a fund called "Campaign to stop Hindu Persecution in America". And in a country that doesn't take too kindly to any infringement of fundamental rights, the Supreme Court can't but take the issue very seriously.

—DEEPA ARORA in Chicago

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

To double the earning power of your savings account, cut this ad in half.

The SmartMoneyAccount. 10% interest instead of the usual 5% which you get from an ordinary savings account. How does it work?

Simple. Say, you've deposited Rs. 10,000. At 10% p.a. you earn Rs. 1000 in a year. OK, but what if you need to withdraw? No problem. Say, you withdraw Rs. 6000. On this, you pay overdraft interest at 12% p.a. Which works out to Rs. 720. However, your Rs. 1000 (interest on the original deposit) keeps coming. So, your net income is Rs. 1000 – Rs. 720 = Rs. 280. In the case of an ordinary savings account, you would have earned 5% interest on your balance of Rs. 4000. That is, only Rs. 200. So, quick! Cut out the coupon. Because, idleness can be costly.

HongkongBank AnyTimeMoney

Get a FREE AnyTimeMoney Card with your SmartMoneyAccount. For instant banking, round-the-clock.

SmartMoneyAccount

HongkongBank
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

AnyTimeMoney Facility not available in Visakhapatnam

Yes! Each day costs me half the earning power of my savings. Hurry, send me more information on how I can make my money

S1 M3 A1 R1 T1

Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____ Tel _____

fold here

IT

To,
The Customer Service Officer
HongkongBank
52-60 M. G. Road
Bombay 400 001.

Postage will be paid by addressee

Business Reply
Inland Letter Card

Permit No.
BY-S-381
Bombay GPO
Bombay 400 001

No postage stamp necessary if posted in India

fold to stick

HKB SMA P 8 2517

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by RAVI SHANKARAN

Tonsuring in progress at the Tirupati temple: assembly-line operation

HUMAN HAIR

Quick Growth Industry

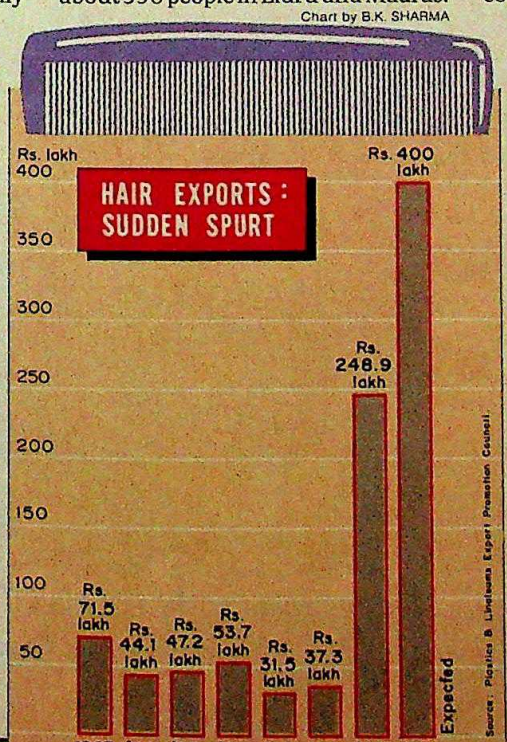
For exporters, hair off your head is money in the bank

EVERY time you comb your hair and chuck the fallen strands out of your window, a potentially multi-crore industry is losing out on some raw material.

To be sure, the human hair industry in India is still a tiny one. Even so, the figures are impressive. India is already the second largest exporter of human hair in the world after China. Each year it exports 3,000 tonnes of hair worth more than Rs 5 crore to East Asia and Europe where it is used to make wigs as well as to manufacture chemicals used in the food and pharmaceutical industries. Now, Indian companies are getting into the act. In recent years, two plants have been set up in south India to manufacture chemicals from hair.

Says M.M. Gupta, India's largest hair exporter for the second consecutive year: "These are good years." That's a bit of an understatement. Gupta began operations in 1974 with a turnover of Rs 1.5 lakh. Today, he exports hair worth nearly Rs 3 crore and employs about 350 people in Eluru and Madras.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



Another leading exporter is the Madras-based Benjamin Cherian. His company, Raj Impex, was set up in 1980, to meet Japanese demand for hair to manufacture cystines—chemicals used in the pharmaceutical industry—and amino acid powder. The first order Raj Impex landed was for 50 tonnes. That was in 1980, a relatively lean year. Times have improved, and today Cherian exports 400 tonnes of hair annually to South Korea, Hong Kong and the Philippines, among other countries. Says Cherian: "The initial investment is low, but returns can be high if everything is carefully organised."

Carefully organised the business doubtless is. Hair is collected from the big temples of south India: Tirupati, Tiruttani, Palani, Trivellore, Sholingur and Simhachalam. At Tirupati, hair is big business. Every day, 25,000 people, on an average, offer their locks to the Lord. To

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

help them, 600 barbers work round the clock in six-hour shifts, shaving heads at the rate of one every four minutes. The hair dedicated to the Lord is later sold at quarterly auctions which yield an annual turnover of nearly Rs 1.5 crore. For the last six months, however, the temple has not held any auctions; the authorities accuse hair dealers of forming a syndicate to fix prices at a low level.

But there are other sources of hair too, principal among them being barber shops (Madras alone has more than 2,000). Hair from these shops is collected every week by young boys employed by hair-collecting agents who supply hair to exporters. Barbers allow the boys to collect the hair in exchange for blades, combs or bars of soap. Explains A.K. Vedantam, one of Madras's leading hair collectors: "It saves them the bother of disposing the waste hair and they get a little something in return." Vedantam employs a sizeable army of boys to collect hair from barbers.

A third source of hair is women in south Indian villages who collect their fallen hair, curl it into little knots and keep it aside. Every week or so, the local hair collector sends a boy to visit various homes and collect these knots in exchange for a hairpin or a comb. Collecting hair this way is a laborious process, but it is well worth the effort. Such hair fetches a far higher price than hair from barbers' shops—Rs 700 a kg if it is longer than 12 inches while waste hair from barbers' shops yields only around Rs 30 a kg. Hair of intermediate length—from 8 to 12 inches—fetches Rs 300 a kg.

FOR exporters, hair has so far been a lucrative business. Though they are cagey about divulging figures, estimates put profits at around 10 per cent of sales. But now, exporters face a potential threat from two companies—Srinivasa Cystines in Andhra Pradesh, which manufactures cystines used in pharmaceutical industries, and Protechem Industries, which is to set up an amino acid powder plant in Pondicherry.

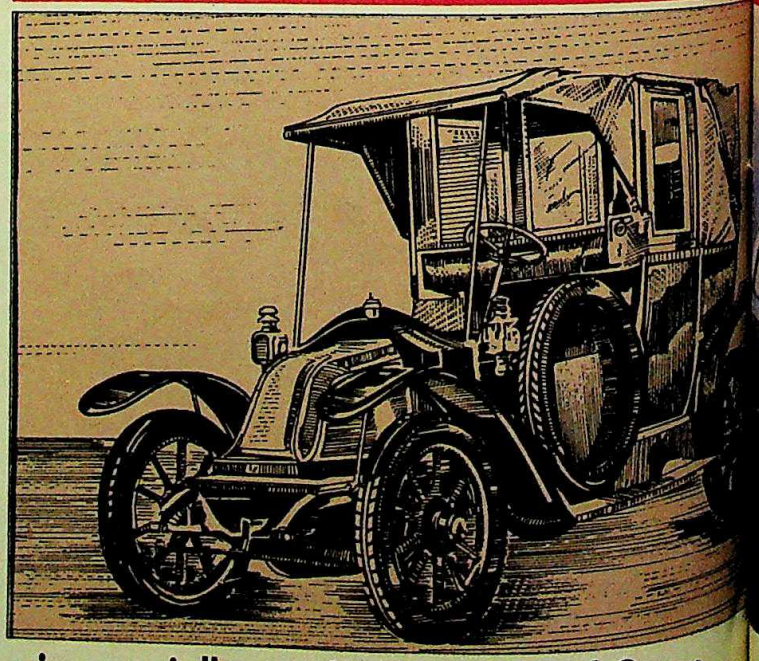
Protechem Industries, set up with Japanese collaboration at a cost of Rs 12 crore, expects to begin production this month. At full production, it will require a staggering 1,200 tonnes of hair a year, and to ensure a steady supply, it has, along with Srinivasa Cystines, asked the Government to ban the export of human hair and to cut the 5 per cent cash compensatory support offered to exporters. K. Ravichandran, chief executive of Protechem, defends his action. "Otherwise," he argues, "we may have to import hair to meet our requirements." Exporters ridicule the argument. Says Cherian: "The quantity of human hair waste that is exported is just 3,000 tonnes. With a population of 850 million, the quantity of hair available in the country is 350,000 tonnes." Adds

Tirupati temp
sorting ha

Gupta: "Bomb
the hair req
factories."

But the tw
threats to the

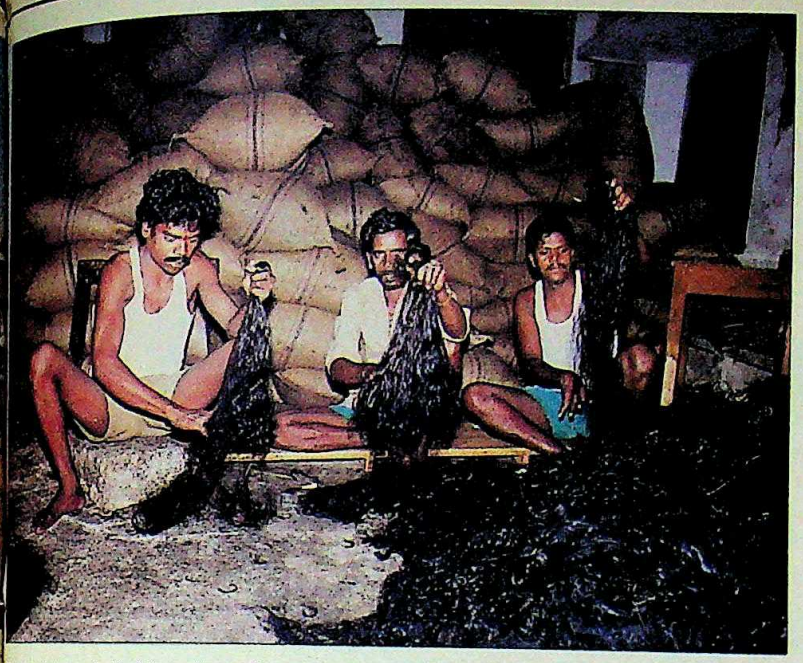
THE CHANGING FACE OF PROGRESS



– is especially rapid at Gajra Bevel Gears.
New growth – new thrust – new diversification.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Tirupati temple (left); and weighing and sorting hair: lucrative business

Gupta: "Bombay city alone can supply the hair requirements of these two factories."

But the two factories aren't the only threats to the current boom. Exporters recall the boom period in the '60s which fizzled out due to cutthroat competition, both within the country and outside. At its peak in 1968, there were 150 exporters compared to just about 50 now. The very success of the industry turned out to be the cause of its downfall. As more and more exporters rushed in to grab a piece of the action, prices shot up. As if that wasn't bad enough, the Government fixed a minimum export price. The result was that India was priced out of the international market which was captured by China, Korea and Indonesia. The introduction of synthetic hair at around the same time completed the catastrophe.

It was only after 1974, when the minimum price was abolished that hair exports made a slow come-back. Since then they've increased rapidly and in the last two years, they've been galloping. From around Rs 60 lakh two years ago, the value of exports has gone up to Rs 5 crore today.

Future prospects look even better. After the massacre in Tiananmen, exports from China have ground to a virtual halt. And while Chinese hair once commanded a market in Europe because of its toughness, currently it's Indian hair which seems to be in favour.

The trough in the industry's fortunes seems to be over, for the time being at least. Still, with competition always a potential threat, exporters can't afford to let their hair down just yet, even if they won't need to wring it in despair as in the late '60s and early '70s.

—KAVITHA SHETTY

It takes a lot to be a pioneer, a leader. Determination. Technology. Obsession with excellence. Gajra Bevel Gears has it. Making it a leader in gears in India. Plus a reputation in 37 countries abroad. Now gearing up for globalisation with a whole new thrust in overseas markets.

Gajra Bevel Gears is committed to the drive towards expansion and globalisation. An ambitious Rs. 12 crore expansion and modernisation programme will widen its horizons – boost capacity from 2500 tpa to 6300 tpa. Yes, Gajra Bevel Gears surges ahead – setting the pace with the changing face of progress.

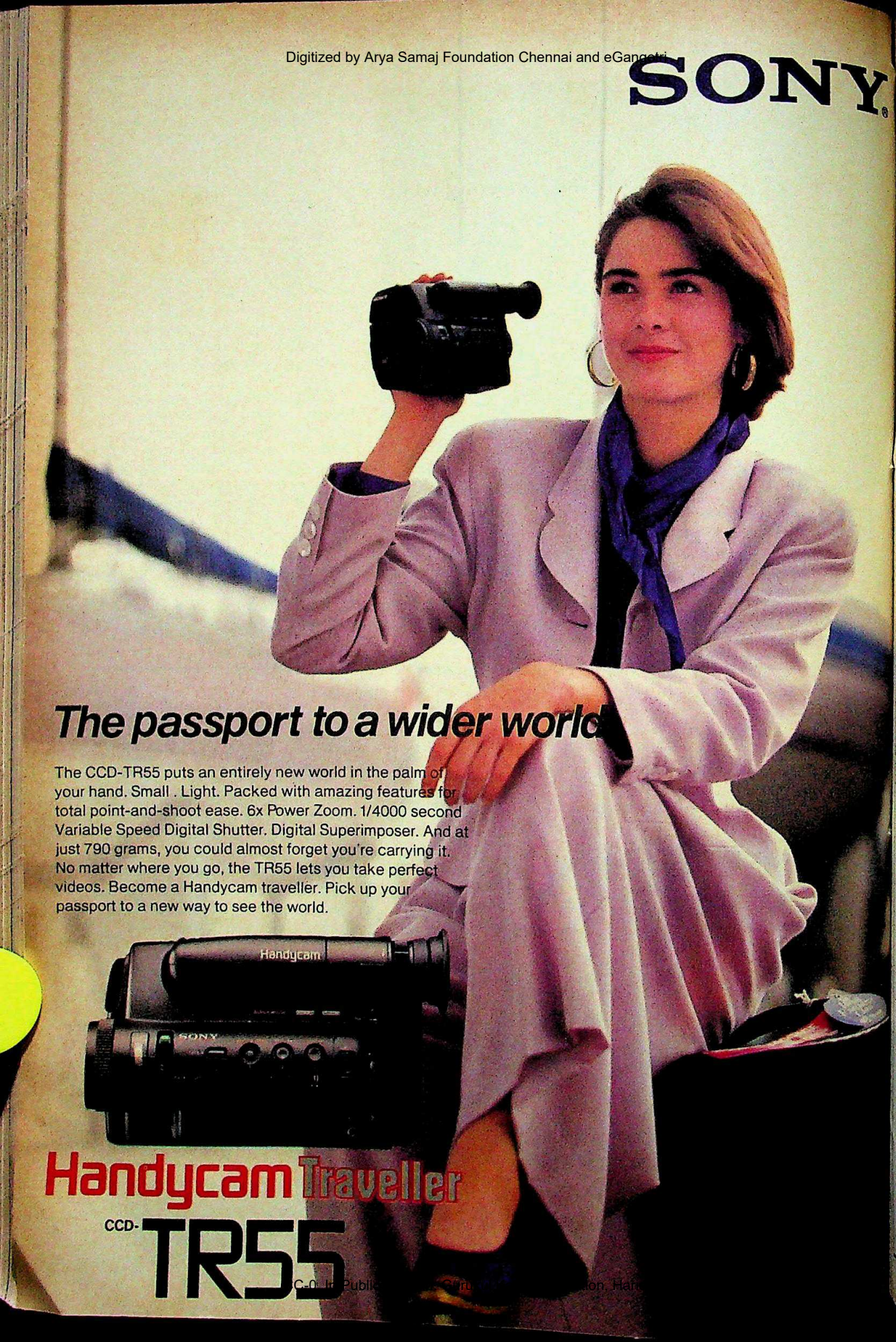
GAJRA BEVEL

Gajra Bevel Gears Ltd., Dewas
M.P. 455 001

Imageads/GBGL/90090

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

EBRAHIM ALKAZI

Breaking the Barriers

International arts centre to do pioneering work

FOR many years, Indian artists have had a hard time breaking into the international art scene. New York has been particularly unreceptive to Third World newcomers. Though the festivals of India have opened some doors, Indian artists have only ended up being typecast "exotic", quite unable to capture the attention of critics, collectors, museums and galleries in the West.

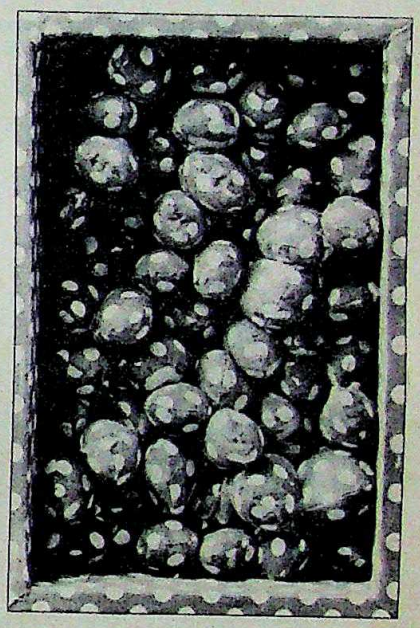
But the recent opening of the Center for International Contemporary Arts (CICA) on Manhattan's Fifth Avenue may alter all that forever. Founded by India-born Ebrahim Alkazi, this non-profit organisation seeks to "afford talented artists, scholars and curators opportunities for larger exposure and recognition" and "initiate a worldwide survey of living artists, to make this information available through a computer network". CICA's executive director, naturalised American Bhupendra Karia, insists: "We're not here to endorse or put people on pedestals. We're here to explore."

Three years in the research and development stage, CICA opened officially last September with a glittering splash. No expense was spared to launch the inaugural exhibit which showcased Yayoi Kusama, a Japanese artist. CICA's opening and the Kusama exhibit got favourable notices in *The New York Times*, *The Village Voice*, and even *The New Yorker*. Kusama was followed by a four-part series, "Art from Britain", that put the spotlight on four young British artists who have never exhibited before.

The opening exhibit was a symbolic and pragmatic choice. Of all Asian societies, Japan is now the one that Americans relate best to, so Kusama's exhibit was bound to be well received. Besides, with Indians at the helm, it was important for CICA not to be categorised as an Indian institute.

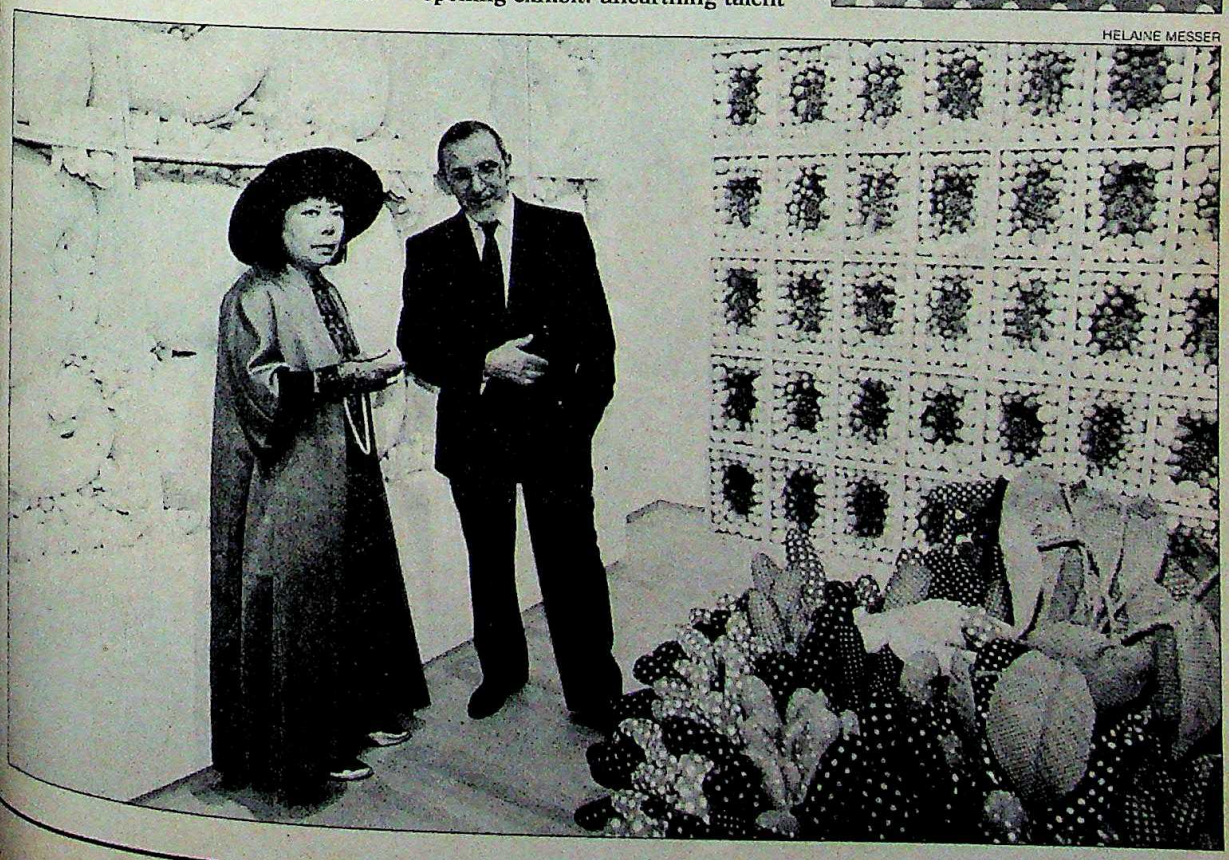
The fall-out for CICA from the Kusama show has been hefty grants from corporations like Sony and Toshiba. Alkazi further hopes CICA will be able to sponsor Indian art historians who "will be associated with the process of assimilating technology and return to India with the opportunity to research areas of their interest".

Also, being neither profit-motivated nor a gallery, CICA has the potential of bestowing legitimacy on unknown artists from all over the world. Karia goes on to explain: "Japan, India, East European countries, South East Asia and the Far East have been ex-



Alkazi with Kusama; and (right) the opening exhibit: unearthing talent

HELAINE MESSER

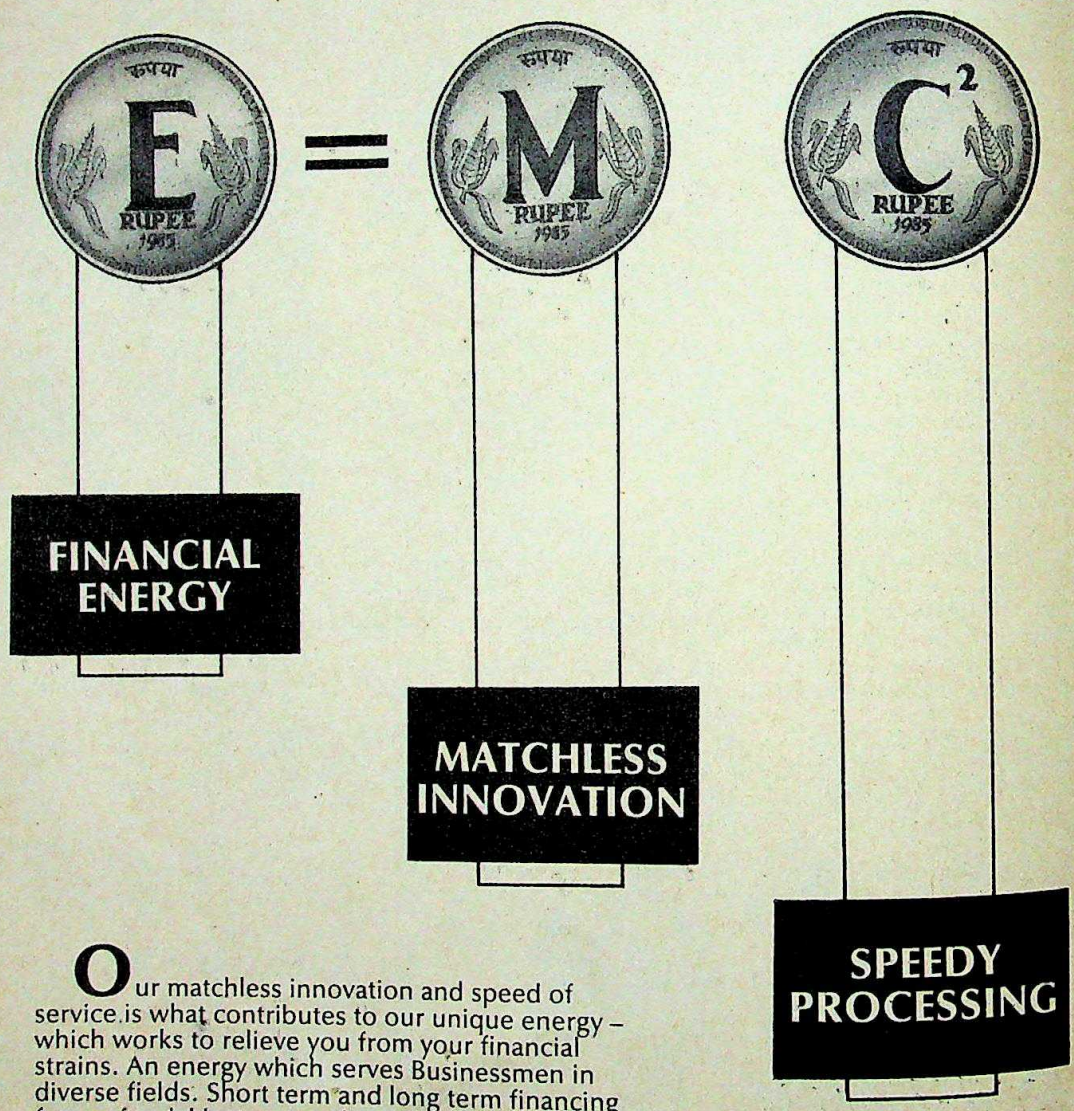


CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Theory of Financial Energy

$$E = MC^2$$



Our matchless innovation and speed of service is what contributes to our unique energy – which works to relieve you from your financial strains. An energy which serves Businessmen in diverse fields. Short term and long term financing from a few lakhs to several crores. This energy can change your Business fortune. Call Cholamandalam. Today.

CHOLAMANDALAM
INVESTMENT & FINANCE COMPANY LIMITED
Associate of Standard Chartered Bank
'TIAM HOUSE', 28, Rajaji Salai, Madras 600 001. Phone: 512137/512455
111, 'C' Wing, Mittal Towers, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021. Phone: 2872473

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

cluded from the western mainstream because of language difficulties."

The first attempt to break the barriers was made when Alkazi moved to London in 1977 after he retired as director of the National School of Drama. There as an NRI, he founded an art publishing house, arranged several exhibits in England and researched the rise of modernism in Indian art.

This interest in modernism led Alkazi to the Big Apple—unquestionably the capital of the modern art world. There Karia, former curator of New York's International Center for Photography, was involved in setting up a photographic database to help art institutes access information about old photographs showing up in the market. Always fascinated by the application of electronic technology to art, Alkazi pooled in his resources with Karia to set up CICA. Alkazi himself furnished the dream; the Alkazi family provided the seed money; and Karia his computer and curatorial expertise, as well as his New York connections.

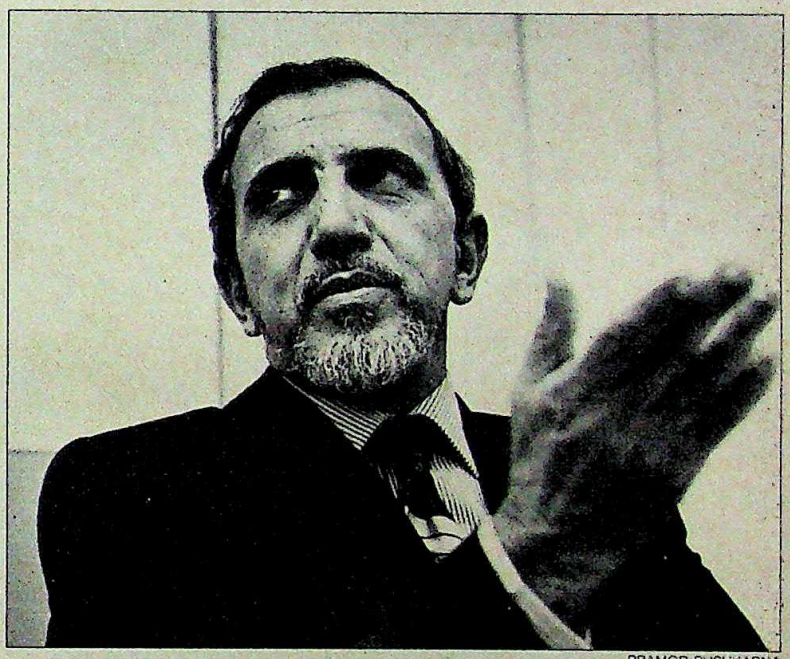
Having already facilitated a no-strings-tied nine-month CICA grant for an Indian printmaker to study in New York under master printmaker Krishna Reddy, Alkazi may have taken the first step to putting India on the art map of the world.

—VIBHUTI PATEL in New York

INTERVIEW

"I hope to catalyse Indian art"

EBRAHIM Alkazi spoke to VIBHUTI PATEL *on his shift to the visual arts. Excerpts from the interview:*



PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

Q. ***What made you give up drama to champion art?***

A. I left the theatre because I'd always thought that when I turned 50 I'd give it up and embark on something entirely different. I felt it was necessary to make way gracefully for a new generation.

Q. ***Why did you suddenly move away from India?***

A. I left a small town (Pune) to come to cosmopolitan Bombay. I left Bombay to work on a national scale. Having done that for 15 years, it was time to move on to the international scene.

Q. ***Why did you switch to the visual arts?***

A. I've always been concerned with the relevance of art to a society—not in art as a commodity to invest in. I went first to England because I hoped to make the material located in the India Office Library and the Victoria and Albert Museum available to Indian scholars.

Q. ***What made you come to New York?***

A. New York is the Mecca of the visual arts. And at my age, I'm a little impatient. One has to seize the opportunity when it comes one's way. Then there is the question of technology. You can't do research without coming to terms with the advances in computerisation. We can't wait for this technology to make its way to India.

Q. ***What are your goals for*** CICA***?***

A. To investigate what art is valid, meaningful. When one studies creative artistic expression in different parts of the world, how does one reconcile the differences? Where do you draw the line and say, this is art, this is not art? The best way is to help artists find their feet on an international platform. In the US, there hasn't been an exhibition of a Japanese artist in the last 18 years. Not only is the Japanese artist denied an opportunity to show his work, but we are denied the opportunity to see that work.

Q. ***What is the problem with the art scene in India?***

A. The emphasis in India is all wrong. The official approach—exhibitions through embassies and cultural organisations—doesn't work. There are works of remarkable quality in India but we lack a curatorial premise in setting up an exhibition; presentation, selection, strategy are essential. There is a great deal of material in national and private collections to which outsiders should have access. I hope to be a catalyst for the art scene in India, not only for creative art but also for research.

Q. ***What will*** CICA ***do for Indian artists?***

A. Young art historians will come here as interns. They'll be associated with the process of assimilating the technology and return with the opportunity to research areas that might be of relevance. We aim to help institutions by providing our resources. Import and government restrictions can be bypassed to create a revolution in the dissemination of information. We'll also give travel grants and open up other areas of the world.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"I always knew that good qualifications were essential for a good career..."

DIPLOMA COURSES : ☐ Masters in Computers Science ☐ Diploma in Computer Science ☐ Diploma in Computer Management ☐ Diploma in Computer Software Applications **SPECIALISED COURSES :** ☐ Diploma in Computerised Financial Accounting ☐ Auto CAD ☐ Diploma in PC Architecture and Maintenance ☐ Unix & 'C'. **SHORT TERM COURSES :** ☐ D. Base III Plus ☐ Lotus 123 ☐ Wordstar ☐ Pascal ☐ Cobol ☐ Basic ☐ All **Microsoft*** Programmes

* **Microsoft** is the registered trademark of Microsoft Corporation (U.S.A.) Tata Unisys Limited is the distributor of **Microsoft** in India. **Lotus** regd. TM of Lotus Development Corpn. Tata Consultancy Services is the distributor for Lotus products in India.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

... So I joined Datapro. And became a 'Masterpro' in computers."

Right from my college days, I was clear about two things. One, a fast-growth career is not possible without good qualifications.

And two, a career in computers was what I wanted.

The problem was, where to get the right qualifications? That's when I found out about the most wanted people in the computer industry.

The Masterprofessionals. Masterpros from Datapro.

It's now been almost a year since I left Datapro. Recently I got my first increment. A fat one. And my boss says I have all the makings of a System Analyst.

If you're looking for a good career in computers, my advice is become a Masterpro at Datapro.

Datapro has the experience.

Of building over 35,000 successful Masterpros. Who now enjoy fast-growth careers with India's leading companies.

Datapro has the training methodology.

The unique American Modular System offers you the widest choice of subjects, 48 in all. It lets you learn computers at your pace, and according to your aptitude and background.

Datapro has the recognitions.

Leading organisations like Bajaj Auto, GIC, Godrej, Indian Navy, SBI and many more, regularly ask Datapro to train their employees in computers. Datapro is also an Authorised Training Centre for ET&T.

Datapro has the international affiliations.

It is an Authorised Training Centre for well-known international names like Microsoft Inc., Lotus Development Corp and Autodesk Inc.

Datapro has the placement record.

Every single Masterpro has ended up with a good career. That's Datapro's unique 100% placement assistance record.

Drop in today at Datapro for a free career counselling session.

Training from 51 Centres

datapro
INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

The institution that builds professionals.

Regd. Office: Bombay: 201, Embassy Centre, Nariman Point, Tel.: 231910, 232520, 232983 • **Baroda:** Bhagwan Apartments, Opp. Circuit House, R.C. Dutt Road, Alkapuri, Tel.: 328660, 329694 • **Bangalore:** Mallesh Complex, 13, Gandhi Bazar, Tel.: 611510 • **Calcutta:** P-86, Lake Road, Ground Floor, Near Beshpriya Park, Tel.: 412867 • **New Delhi:** 18/7-8, Keltron Chambers, Arya Samaj Road, Karol Bagh, Tel.: 5728015, 5728051

Arms Bozell/DP/11/05/90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE INSTITUTE OF CHARTERED FINANCIAL ANALYSTS OF INDIA

(In collaboration with The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts, Virginia, USA)

ADMISSION NOTICE

THE CFA PROGRAMME

Message

Mr Alfred C Morley, President, ICFA, USA

Our Institute has a strong and growing association with The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India. As President of The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts, USA, it is my constant endeavour to further strengthen the foundation for continuing development and growth of the profession of 'Financial Analyst' in India.

Alfred C. Morley

The American Institute

The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts, set up in 1959 at Virginia, USA is the only institution of its kind in the world. It offers a three year training programme leading to the designation Chartered Financial Analyst (CFA) which is a highly valued professional qualification. Since its inception it has awarded the CFA designation to about 12,500 candidates. Interested in advancing the cause of professionalism in the field of financial analysis, it is collaborating with the Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India, in offering the CFA Programme in India. There is an in-built facility for Indian CFAs to acquire the CFA qualification from ICFA, USA.

The Indian Institute

The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India has been established in 1984 as a non-profit educational society. ICFAI is a member of:

- Asian Securities Analysts Council, Japan.
- International Council for Distance Education, Norway.
- The International Coordinating Committee of Financial Analysts Associations, Paris.

The CFA Programme

The CFA Programme is a three year training programme primarily focusing on financial analysis and its application in three broad areas: Corporate Financial Management, Investment Management, Management of Financial Institutions and Financial Services.

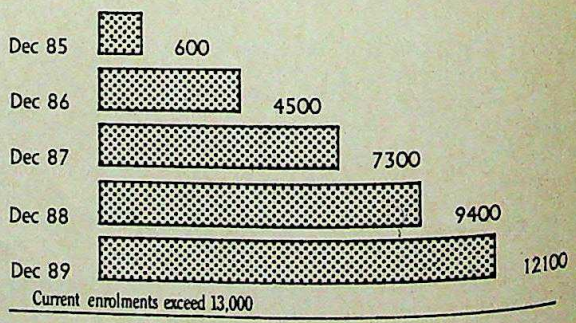
The programme is divided into three levels, six groups and twelve subjects:

Preliminary	
Financial Accounting	Quantitative Methods
Financial Management	Economics
Inter	
Economic Legislation	Security Evaluation
Management Accounting	Project Appraisal
Final	
Adv. Financial Management	Investment Management
Financial Services	Indian Financial System

Subject-wise waivers are available as indicated in the Prospectus.

Leading institutions like RBI, IDBI, UTI, ICICI and IFCI reimburse the CFA Programme fee to their staff.

CFA Enrolments



Current enrolments exceed 13,000

Eligibility:

Graduation (Any Discipline). Final Year students can also apply. The applicants are required to qualify in the Admission Test (Date: July 15 1990) to be conducted at 25 centres. Certain categories of applicants like CAs/CWAs/ACSs/MBAs/CAIIBs/First Class Graduates/First Class Post-Graduates are exempted from Admission Test.

Prospectus

Please write with complete address and a DD for Rs. 50 drawn in favour of 'ICFAI' to: The Administrative Officer (CFA),

The Institute of Chartered Financial Analysts of India,
Road No. 3, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad 500 034.
Phone: 229062, 229286, Grams: 'ICFAI' Telex: 0425-6065 CFA IN, FAX: 0842-229107

Image ads-ICFAI/514-90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

FLIGHT IC 605 INQUIRY

Dispute Over Findings

The crash site (above); and Bhat (left): a difficult judgement

ON February 14, as Indian Airlines' Flight IC 605 came into make its fatal landing, Captain V.S. Sathaye was sitting in the cockpit of another A 320 waiting to take off from Bangalore airport. When he looked out of his windscreen, he noticed a cloud of dust beyond the runway boundary and saw the aircraft bounce before bursting into flames. He immediately informed the control tower of the crash and rushed to the spot.

Yet when Sathaye narrated his experience to the four-member Court of Inquiry into the IC 605 crash at Bangalore last week, the poignancy of the occasion seemed lost. Inside the spacious high court hall, the gripping details of the crash were soon reduced to cold facts as each statement was quizzed by a battery of lawyers representing Indian Airlines, the Pilots Association, Airbus Industrie, International Aero-engines and a consumers' forum.

WHAT CAUSED THE CRASH?

Inspector of Accidents Directorate General of Civil Aviation

- Pilots made a faulty altitude setting, bringing engines to idle.
- As a flight director remained on, the auto-thrust did not work.
- They then failed to monitor speed even when it fell too low.
- Their measures to avert the crash were taken too late.

Airbus Industrie

- Agrees substantially with the inspector of accidents' report.
- Pilots should have put off the flight director as per procedure.
- Failure to monitor air speed was a serious lapse.
- Aircraft control systems performed satisfactorily.

Pilots Association

- No real proof that the pilots had made a faulty altitude setting.
- Although they shut the flight director, the system failed to do so.
- Silent about why the air speed was not monitored by the pilots.
- Cause of the crash was a major aircraft systems failure.

As the court, chaired by Justice Shivashankar Bhat, heard the evidence, jurors and counsels were constantly foxed by technical jargon like FCU, ECAM, PFD and ALT STAR frequently used by the experts. Sensing that a quick verdict would be difficult, Bhat informed the Ministry of Civil Aviation that the inquiry would not be completed by the May 31 deadline and sought a two-month extension.

The ministry, which was banking on the court's judgement to decide the fate of Indian Airlines' grounded fleet of 14 A 320s, took alternative measures. The Union Cabinet last fortnight approved its proposal to sell four aircraft that Airbus Industrie was to deliver. And it also decided to indefinitely lease the remaining 14 to other international airlines. That was done to cut down the mounting losses estimated at Rs 2.5 crore a week to keep these aircraft grounded.

The mild-mannered Bhat is piqued by the fact that his court's verdict would also be a judgement on the world's most advanced passenger aircraft in the world. As he told INDIA TODAY: "It is really putting a heavy responsibility on me for deciding such a highly technical matter. I am only looking at what caused the crash."

However, even that is going to prove difficult. Three months after the Bangalore crash that killed 91 people, its cause is hotly disputed. The inspector of accidents, appointed by the Director General of Civil Aviation, in his report submitted to the court, puts the blame squarely on the pilots. Airbus Industrie gleefully supports it and provides more evidence to establish that fact. But the Indian Commercial Pilots Association says that it was a clear case of failure of the sophisticated systems of the aircraft and adds that it has evidence to prove that the pilots struggled bravely to avert the crash.

As the various counsels presented their arguments, it was clear that the action or the lack of it by captain S. Gopujkar and co-pilot Cyril Fernandes in the last 35 seconds before the crash is what proved most crucial. In that half a minute several things happened that finally led to Flight IC 605 landing prematurely on a golf course, before hitting a bundh and bursting into flames. Fernandes was, in fact, on his first route-check for his command ratings and was piloting the aircraft.

According to Satendra Singh, the inspector of accidents, it was a series of mistakes by the two pilots that caused the crash. It began when the more experienced Gopujkar made a faulty altitude setting in his flight control unit. That reading led to the aircraft's

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

automatic thrust control systems go on the 'Open Descent' Mode. This mode keeps the engines idling and reduces the aeroplane's speed.

That error was compounded when Gopujkar failed to disengage his flight director, a requirement before landing. If he had shut his director, then the aircraft's flight control systems, sensing that speed was dropping, would have automatically given the engines more power. Worse, even though the two pilots noticed these errors, Singh opines they failed to take corrective measures. Airbus says they made the mistake of not checking the aircraft's speed in those vital 35 seconds, even when it had dropped far below the critical minimum of 132 knots.

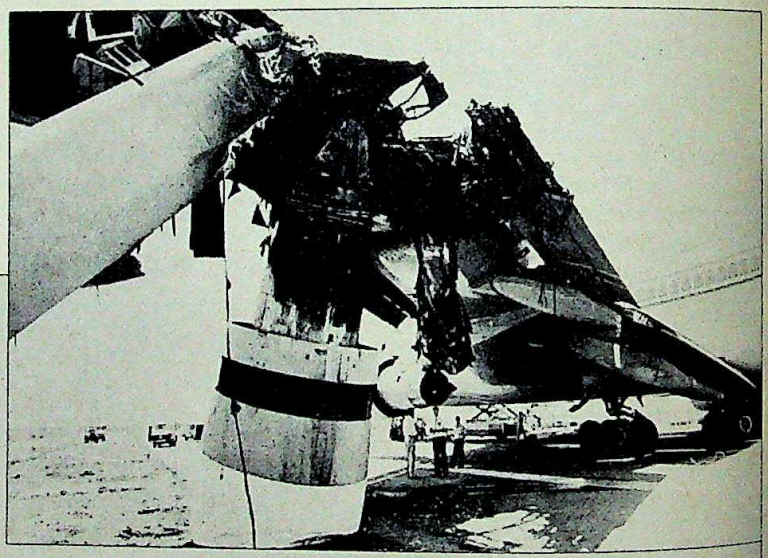
The pilots realised they were falling short just six seconds before the crash when they were only 135 ft above the ground. Although they did take evasive measures, Singh's report concludes that if it had been done just two seconds earlier, the accident may have been averted. He does point to the fact that the engines did not build up the specified power after corrective action was taken. But he seems satisfied with Airbus Industrie's explanation that there is always a 0.5 second time lag for a command to the aircraft's thrust control to act.

The Pilots Association, however, fiercely refutes the findings. In its affidavit, it points to several conversations indicating that the pilots were not fouling up. It argues it is unlikely that a senior pilot like Gopujkar would commit such a series of mistakes. There was no proof to show that he made a faulty setting in the first place as the data recorders do not register it. The association also believes that the engines went into idle power because of a major systems defect. Even when Gopujkar tried to shut his director off, it didn't respond. And that the time lag of 0.5 seconds for the auto-thrust controls to act proved to be disastrous.

Hearings have been suspended till June-end and when the Court of Inquiry reconvenes, it will be faced with ambiguities in several key clues. For instance, the vital conversation describing the altitude setting is lost in a garble of tower control transmissions. Then again at one point the pilots' conversation about the flight director not being off, could also point to a systems malfunction.

The battle over whether the aircraft's engines responded according to parameters is likely to be long drawn. Certainly, deciding what happened in the last 35 seconds of Flight IC 605 will take the court not just hours but months.

—RAJ CHENGAPPA in Bangalore



The damaged Jumbo

AIR INDIA

Safety Issue

THOUGH flying high on profits, Air India's reputation for safety may take a knocking. Initial findings by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation point to poor maintenance as a major cause for an engine on one of its Boeing 747 Jumbos prying loose while landing at New Delhi on May 7.

The mishap, which also saw the left wing catch fire, jeopardised the lives of 215 people aboard. Only a large slice of luck and some quick action by the capital's airport staff to douse the fire averted what would have been the country's second major air accident in three months.

Aviation officials probing the accident came up with some troubling evidence. Apparently, a pylon, holding up one of the two engines on the left wing, had given way while the aircraft was landing. The loosely-hinged engine, then reared upwards and its exhaust fumes caused the fire on the wing. The pilots had no indication of the problem. It was only when the Delhi air traffic control warned them that they shut down engine fuel supply.

The pylon holding the engine is fastened to the wing by six wrist-thick fuse pins. Aviation officials suspect that when the aircraft underwent a major engineering check in April, the staff failed to fix a crucial retainer washer on one of the fuse pins. Air India officials, however, hotly refute that poor maintenance was the cause. J. Bhargava, its chief public relations manager, said: "The retainer washer may have been one of the factors but it is not the sole one. And till the inquiry into the accident is over, we can't comment on what really caused it." After the accident, the corporation's engineering staff carried out detailed checks on all its other nine Jumbos and reported no untoward incidents.

Aviation officials are still leaving their options open regarding the real cause of the incident. For instance, they point out that even if one of the fuse pins had broken, the one opposite to it was designed to take on the additional load. Yet that pin too had sheared away.

While both Boeing and Air India are now waiting anxiously for the aviation directorate's final report, the accident has alerted the airline to other problems as well. For instance, at present the alarm systems in the cockpit warn pilots of fires in the engines but not if it breaks out on wing tips. There is an urgent need for this flaw to be rectified.

—RAJ CHENGAPPA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

If you think this is stretching things a bit too far...

You should see the product!

VIP Frenchie. The compact and precise designer brief with a real manly stretch! The world is switching to it in a big way, and so are our major cities! A real international choice from VIP for our men of style and action.

VIP
Frenchie
Designer briefs for the man of the world

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE US

Crucial Mission

Superpowers try to avert Indo-Pak war

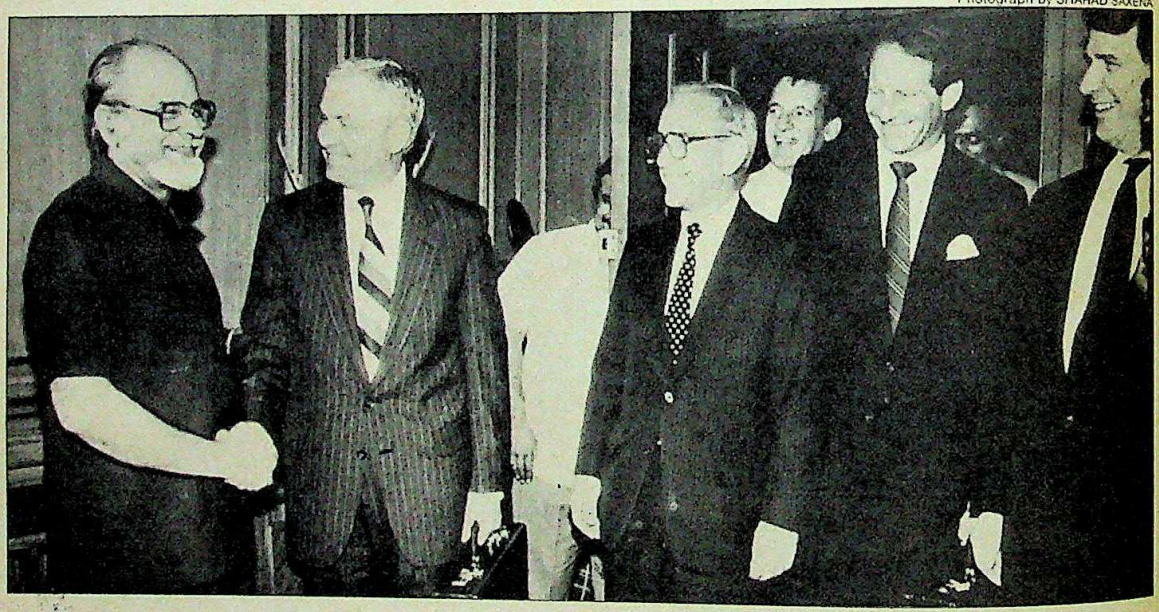
IN normal times, the onset of summer marks a diplomatic exodus from New Delhi. But with two of the world's strongest armies standing muzzle to muzzle, this is no normal summer. Thus, for once, the direction of diplomatic traffic has been reversed.

The arrival in New Delhi last fortnight of US President George Bush's special envoy and Deputy National Security Adviser Robert Gates, along with two other top officials—followed by the visit of influential Congressman Stephen Solarz—marked a new peak in international diplomatic effort to bring down tensions between India and Pakistan. Gates, a former CIA kingpin, brought letters from Bush for Benazir Bhutto and V.P. Singh. The central message was the same: avoid war. Further, Gates told India and Pakistan that in case of war the US would remain neutral but not indifferent. Besides exerting pressure to bring about a truce, it could move against the country that begins the war. Implicit in the message was the suggestion that it also had the Soviets' concurrence.

After delivering a firm missive to Islamabad to restrain its hand, the delegation held meetings with Singh, External Affairs Minister I.K. Gujral, senior officials and Chief of Army Staff General V.N. Sharma. Both Singh and Gujral firmly told the Americans that the Kashmir problem could not be viewed in the isolated context of the valley's politics and the history of Partition. It had a bearing on the survival of a secular India. They argued: if four-and-a-half million people are allowed to go away just because they are Muslims, what will happen to the remaining hundred million Muslims? Singh demanded that the US ensure concrete results such as reduction in infiltration, to prove Pakistan's good intentions. The Americans, in turn, suggested that India use force in the valley with discretion.

Gates' delegation with Gujral

Photograph by SHARAD SAXENA



The US has offered measures developed with Soviet cooperation to monitor disposition of troops.

The session with the army chief was more to do with the nitty-gritty of force deployments, postures and military manoeuvres. Aware that the satellites of the superpowers had paid special attention to subcontinental skies over the past three months, Sharma was straightforward in the discussions about India's deployments, which, he said, were purely defensive. The Americans, on the evidence of their 'assets', agreed. Sharma also asserted that, in the current context, who started the war could be a chicken-or-egg question.

It was to prevent the firing of the first shot that the Americans offered direct assistance. The offer includes satellites, and other measures developed in cooperation with the Soviet bloc, to monitor disposition of troops and confidence-building measures as in NATO exercises. The pressure on the two sides is to go beyond the 'hotline level'. The superpowers are pleading for a direct contact of the kind that led to exchange of visits by Pakistani and Indian generals in the post-Brasstacks de-escalation phase. Given the present mood that seems unlikely.

Convinced that only initiative at the highest level could break the ice, the Americans underline another problem. Singh and Benazir do not even know each other—a problem in an era where international diplomacy is conducted on the basis of personal equations. "The Pakistanis are wary of Singh, who they think is dependent on the BJP; and the Indians are not convinced that Benazir is in control," said a western diplomat.

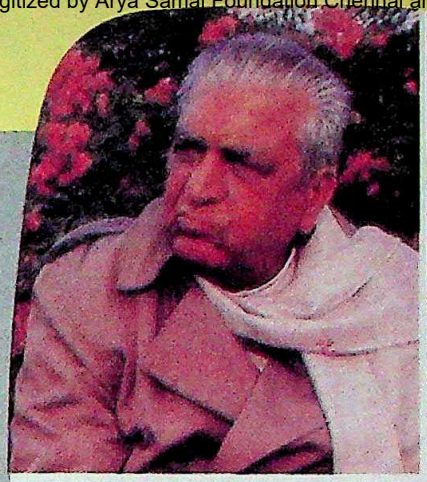
The Soviets and the Americans have been trying to contrive a situation where Singh and Benazir could meet each other. It is imperative to arrange that without appearing to be brokering a summit—something India will never accept. That is what international diplomacy is expected to centre on in the coming weeks.

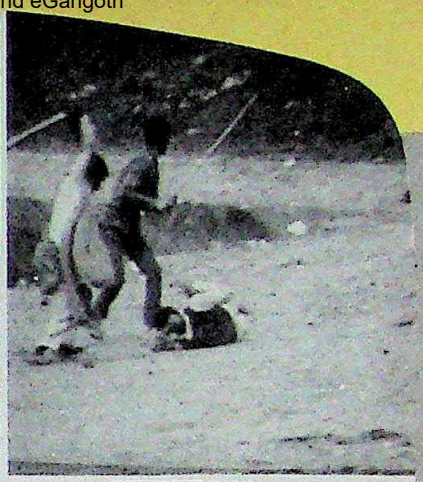
—SHEKHAR GUPTA

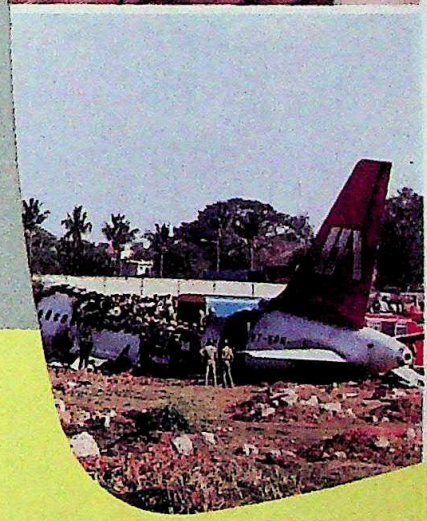
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

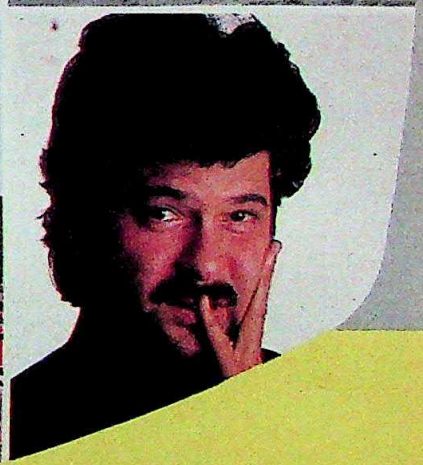
NEWSTRACKING

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri









iter you have all about it and l about it — see it India's first agazine on video e–*NEWSTRACK* t to you by the y's leading agazine *TODAY*.

he play button and on the ringside people, places, s, issues and ideas isively covered like other medium efore. *NEWSTRACK* you behind the and newsmakers for insight to what's ening–every month.

ve some of the *NEWSTRACK* has d in the past.

ps of the Assembly s, the Airbus A-320 ersy, Poll violence in , the militant situation Kashmir Valley, the ting of Doordarshan R, plus many more ting features. Also ews with VP Singh, r Bhutto, Imran Khan, ri Dixit and many

BECAUSE SEEING IS BELIEVING

SPECIAL OFFERS

SINGLE CASSETTE

- Current Issue Rs. 145/- each
- Back Issues Rs. 135/- each

SUBSCRIPTION

- Annual Rs. 1380/- and a FREE *INDIA TODAY* ADDRESS BOOK.*

* Offer valid upto June 30, 1990. Address Books will be home delivered at your given address.

Please draw remittance in favour of Living Media India Ltd. by cheque/DD and mail alongwith your name and address to LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD., P.O. BOX 29, NEW DELHI-110 001.

Cheques/Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

GARDENING

The Green Revolution

Urban India is draping itself in a verdant shawl as a new craze for gardens and greenery sweeps the country.

THE Green Revolution is back. This time, however, it's concentrated in the cities. In homes and balconies, in verandahs and gardens, urban India is increasingly wrapping itself in a verdant blanket. Waterfalls and rocks have left the wilderness and invaded homes and offices. Aficionados exchange plants and gardening tips as if they were culinary recipes. Green, quite clearly, is in.

It's a revolution that cuts across economic barriers. Savitabai Jagtap, a mill-worker's wife in the polluted Parel-Lalbaug area of Bombay, grows roses and *tulsi* in Dalda cans in her balcony facing the main road. She says amidst the constant blaring of horns: "They are pleasant to look at." And at Malabar Hill, in a quiet bungalow on the edge of the sea, Padma Shah says: "Gardening isn't a hobby. It's part of my life."

The revolution extends across the country. Bombay boasts of traffic islands with mock-Japanese gardens at virtually every major junction. Parts of Calcutta—which got a massive face-lift thanks to the Reliance Cup final in 1987 and the ongoing tercentenary celebrations—look like an emerald paradise. Bangalore—the original garden city—boasts of a new craze, the Japanese garden. Delhi has sprouted nurseries in almost every residential colony. And in Madras, Shekar James, who runs Black Rose, a landscape design firm whose gardens at the Trident Hotel in Madras are the toast of the town, asks: "When has the city ever seen so much green?"

Indeed. The rubble of trash and the fumes of cars remain, but now oases of greenery too abound. Says Prabhakar Rao, who runs Hariyalee, a Bangalore-based landscape design firm: "Landscape design has finally come of age in India." Agrees Detroit-trained Mukund Vedapudi, partner of Viswakaram, a Madras-based interior architecture firm: "The business is booming."

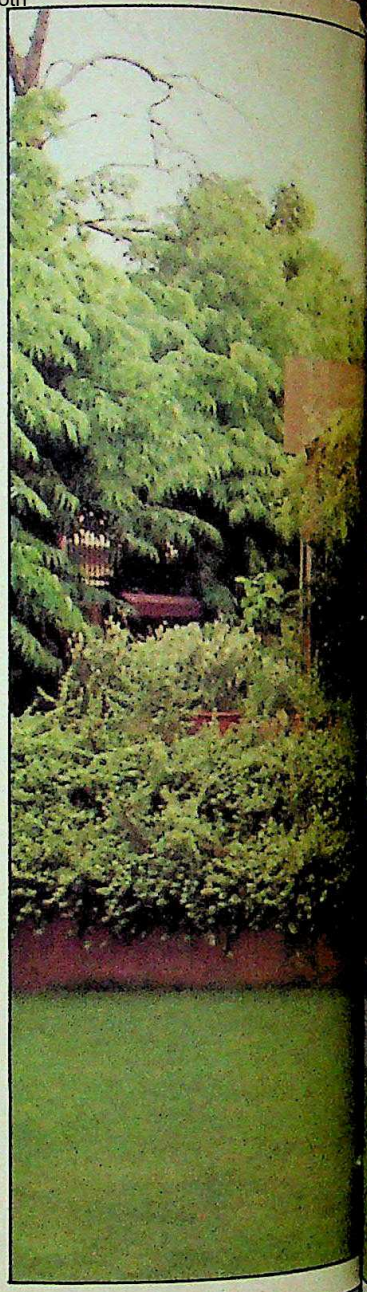
It is. The growing green awareness has fuelled a virtual industry—of seed suppliers, landscape designers, pesticide suppliers, weed controllers, suppliers of gardening equipment, coaching classes for bonsai and ikebana and even makers of artificial plants. Says garden designer, Shreya Dalal, whose compositions were part of the 1985-86 Festival of India in the US: "Almost overnight, hundreds of landscape designers have emerged."

Designers charge anything ranging from Rs 10 to Rs 1,000 per square foot to lay out your garden. If you want to do your own decorating, you can obtain plants for as little as Rs 25 each. In Bangalore, public sector companies spend nearly Rs 4 crore a year on maintaining and creating gardens. Estimates put the private gardening business in the city at another crore. And for the country as a whole, the business is worth as much as Rs 75 crore.

The greening of India was only to be expected. Says Dalal: "Urban tensions are taking their toll. Nothing gives greater peace of mind than nature. The consciousness had to grow."

It was hardly surprising that greening in Bombay began in Cuffe Parade, a concrete jungle of high-rise apartments standing cheek-to-cheek like Californian giant redwoods shorn of foliage. Residents came together to develop an emerald patch called Colaba Woods, setting the trend for other private initiatives. Examples: Bandra's Carter Road, Breach Candy and Napean Sea Road in Bombay. Grumbles a Pune resident: "Bombay now looks greener than Pune."

Companies too busy to look after plants themselves rent out plants from suppliers; and executives who want forever-fresh flowers on their desk opt



MAHESH BHATT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PRASHANT PANJIAR

(Clockwise from top) A Delhi landscape design; Livleen Sharma with her 'darlings'; waterfall in Bangalore

SHARAD SAXENA

homes and
alconies, in
randahs and
rdens, urban
dians are
covering
at green is
eautiful...

...Waterfalls and rocks have invaded homes and offices. The green revolution is one that cuts across economic barriers.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

for artificial bouquets. Says Sunita Nagpal, who runs an artificial flowers business in Bombay: "Artificial plants are great. You don't have to maintain them, you don't have to change water, you don't have to worry about bugs, and they last two years."

Over the past few years, there has been a sea-change in people's attitudes towards gardens. Just 10 years ago, the garden was the proverbial backyard of the house, an apologetic afterthought among interior decorators. Now, says Dalal: "Even before buying chairs, people are thinking of gardens."

One who has paid renewed attention to her garden is Priya Mascarenhas, a hotel consultant in Bangalore. Originally, she had an English garden in her Fraser Town residence in an area of 3,000 sq ft, where colourful flowers grew in gay, wild abandon. She got Prabhakar Rao interested in her garden, and now it has an awesome presence: with a waterfall, a bridge, streams, rockeries and lights, flanked by trimmed hedges and wicket fences.

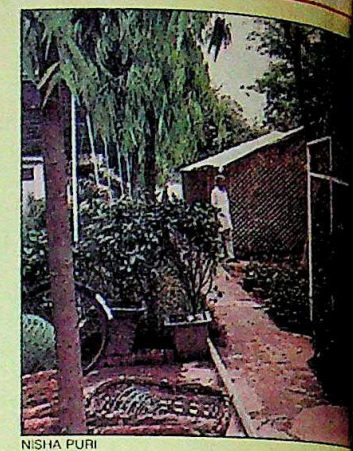
Mascarenhas had space to run riot in but designers can do wonders even in tiny plots. Take the case of Saleem Aziz and Rahila

DELHI

New Bloom

LIKE grass seeds after the first monsoon rains, nurseries have sprouted in New Delhi at a phenomenal rate. And keeping pace with them are a clutch of boutiques selling a variety of pots (or planters as they are known) made of brass, copper, terracotta and ceramic.

The largest is Foliage, owned by Kamala Nath and run pretty much in the manner of an efficient corporation. Nath first prepares a report for her clients, depending on the lighting, humidity, watering facilities and so on of the place to be done up. Once clients agree to the suggestions in the report, Nath supplies them the plants suited to those conditions. Foliage even sends soil and water samples from private gardens to the Indian Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa for testing. If the soil is deficient in particular nutrients, these are


NISHA PURI

made up by the nursery. Nath also maintains the plants, sending trained professionals to water and manure the plants and treat them if they fall victim to infections. The charge is Rs 30 to Rs 50 a plant for a month, but Nath refuses orders for less than Rs 50 a month.

Plants are available to suit all pockets. A money plant or a fern is available for Rs 15, an aglonema or a philodendron costs Rs 1,500. Nath's success has encouraged her to open a boutique

"If it ain't Wrangler, it just ain't jeans."

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

in Hauz Khas village specialising in ceramic, terracotta and fibreglass pottery, plant tapestries and farm landscaping. Says she: "Today everyone wants greenery around and hence nurseries have become a lucrative business."

Anita Lal, proprietress of Tulsi, an exclusive boutique for planters, would agree with that. "I'm amazed at the kind of money my clients spend on pots," she says. "An average customer parts with Rs 200 to Rs 800 on a single visit. The more evolved ones spend as much as Rs 1,000." Lal's clientele includes industrialists, film stars from Bombay and the upper end of Delhi's social circuit.

A.M. Khan, who owns the Rajdhani Nursery, one of Delhi's best known, is another who has cashed in on the growing boom. Khan's hottest selling varieties are palms, money plants, cacti, roses, bougainvilleas, hibiscuses, canna lilies and oleanders. Prices are reasonable. A rose cutting in season costs, on average, Rs 15. And a bougainvillea, which needs very little care and is ideally suited to the dry Delhi climate, can be had for just Rs 10.

Mehdiratta, owner of Argosy, sells a variety of plants and the entire gamut of gardening accessories: lawn mowers, hose-pipes, garden tools, flower vases, bonsai trays, gardening books and plant medicines. Over the last six years, says Mehdiratta, the number of visitors to his shop has doubled.

The new enthusiasm for things green is best exemplified by Livleen Sharma who buys plants from "this wonderful nursery in Bangalore". She spends about Rs 2,000 a month on buying and maintaining plants. The result is a jungle-like atmosphere complete with fluttering mynas and parrots. Sharma often talks to her plants. "Oh, I love you darling," or "Why aren't you looking healthy today." The secret of her healthy plants, she emphasises, is not artificial manures, fertilisers and medicines, but "genuine caring".

—SHARMILA CHANDRA with NISHA PURI

Saleem, who live in the upscale Poes Garden area of Madras. They had very little space but Black Rose worked its magic. They now have an undulating lawn edged with an assortment of plants, while the wall is a riot of trailing ferns, combining to give an impression of lushness that would seem impossible, given the space.

Says Jyoti Parekh, who along with husband Nikunj, teaches bonsai in Bombay: "We even get requests from people who have only an 8 ft by 8 ft area to spare." Over the last two decades, the Parekhs have popularised the art among more than 20,000 students.

Elsewhere, the emphasis is on the exotic. Says Prabhakar Rao: "I make gardens to suit the personality of my client." So industrial clients, like Hindustan Aeronautics, get a cool, corporate, hi-tech look, emphasised by the latest rage, Mexican wavy grass. For a nouveau riche client who's moved to Bangalore from Bombay, Rao created a waterfall straight out of the Western Ghats where the client planned to put up a bar. The garishness

ULKA - 13160

Wrangler

The American legend. Now in India.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ndation Chennai and eGangotri

With the new EOS 700QD, Canon techn

hasn't just created another great addition to the aw

winning EOS range. It's practically created two gr

cameras in one. The real beauty of this ingeni

new EOS lies in a unique Reversible Shutter Dial t

lets you flip from manual shutter speeds to sim

Programmed Image Control in seconds flat. The

result are pictures and effects that will excite every

from a first-time SLR user to a serious professional.

And since the Canon EOS 700QD is fully compat

with any of Canon's

Lenses — from super w

angle fish-eye to

long telephoto, we really do mean serious.

Combining world-beating Canon standard features

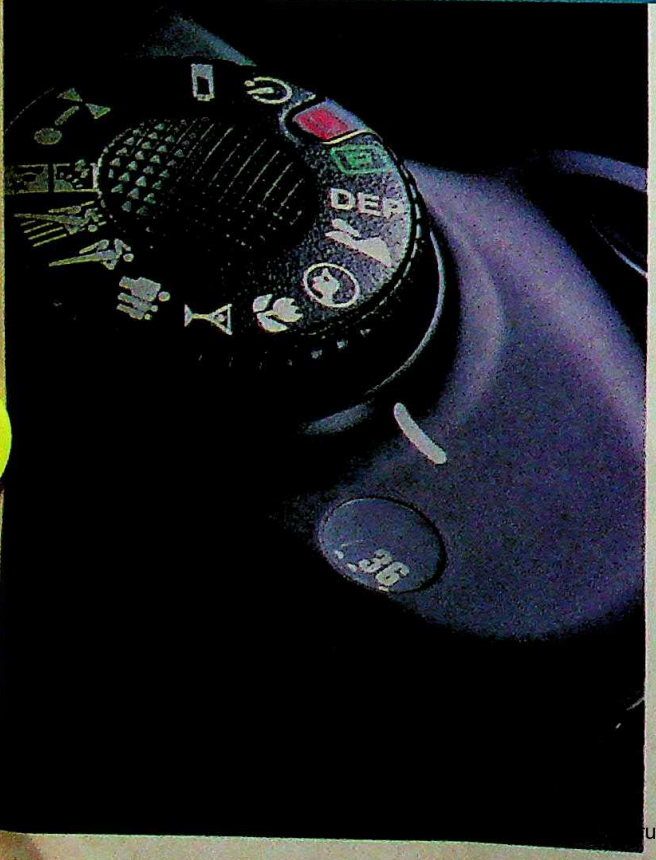
an auto-retractable flash and EOS evaluative met

in a sleek, but sturdy body, the new EOS 700Q

a camera nobody can miss with. For a free co

brochure, complete and return the coupon today.

THE PROFESSIONAL CAMERA
EVEN BEGINNERS
ARE FLIPPING OVER



To: CANON HONGKONG TRADING CO. LTD.
Room 1101 Peninsula Centre, 67 Mody Road, Tsimshatsui East, Kowloon, Hong Kong.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____ Tel No.: _____

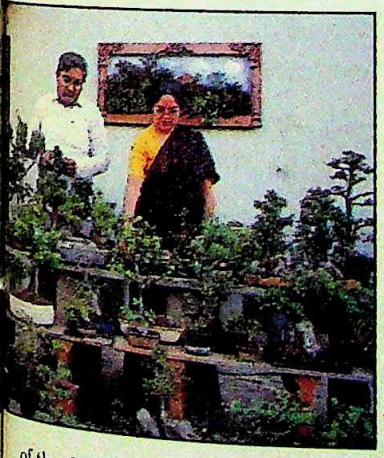
Canon
EOS 700QD

ukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Service Agents: Mahatta & Co. P.O. Box 492, 59 M Block, Con Circus, New Delhi – 1 Phone: 3530008 K. Prabhakar 65, D.N. Road, 2nd Floor, Fort, Bombay 400 001. Phone: 263827 Deen Dayal Camera Repairers Municipal Market Shop No. B 1/3 Chakiapally, Hyderabad

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by NAMAS BHOJANI



(Clockwise from top) A Bombay traffic island; Dalal's balcony; Parekhs at work

Cities are sprucing up traffic islands with Japanese gardens.

Fuelling the gardening boom is a bevy of landscape designers.

of the design only required a Mandakini cavorting under the waterfall.

Says James: "Clients always want the best but they do not always know what's best for them. (Often) we have to disillusion them and educate them." When a landscape designer protested to a client that he could not uproot plants a mere three months after they had been planted, the client shot back: "It is my money; I can do what I want with my garden. Your job is to deliver." Agrees Mukund: "Everyone wants a waterbody, a barbecue and Korean grass, regardless of whether their lifestyle justifies it." The result: gardens which resemble the most hideous Hindi film sets. Laments Parekh: "Aesthetic sense is lacking here. Our only interest is money."

Gardens are certainly not new to India. Sanskrit literature is replete with references to secret rendezvous for amorous couples in hidden gardens. Hyder Ali and Tipu Sultan made gardens a landmark of Karnataka. And the Mughals and the British too had an avid interest in gardens.

Now, there's been a revival. But awareness hasn't matched interest. Some greenhorn gardeners anxious to care for their plants, overwater them. Or they grow the wrong plants which die soon in harsh sunlight. Says Dalal: "You can't be stubborn with your plants. They are like kids. You have to discipline them. You can make them grow better by talking to them, touching them. They get pale if I go out of town. They miss me." Jagdish Chandra Bose would've agreed. Especially with designers who're inspired by elemental forces: the fertility of a plant, the energy of water, the strength of rocks. Says Rao: "Land is my canvas; shrubs, clay, rocks, plants and water are my paints."

The resulting portrait is fresh and evergreen.

—SALIL TRIPATHI in Bangalore and Bombay with KAVITHA SHETTY in Madras

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cezari
SUITINGS FROM THE CEZARI COLLECTION

POLYESTER BLENDED SUITINGS

BOMBAY DYEING
ESTABLISHED 1879

AND NOW READYMADES FROM BOMBAY DYEING - VIVALDI SHIRTS

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Star Turn

Sealey gets the masala right

HERO: A FABLE
by I. ALLAN SEALEY
Viking
Price: Rs 125; Pages: 248

"I said: 'It's all very well to blame the people, to itemize their crimes. If they're everybody's crimes they're nobody's crimes. If you spread the guilt thinly enough it disappears.' "

" 'That's all right. It's all an illusion.' He spoke lightly, humouring me. 'All leela, nothing but play.' " Scriptwriter Zero's rhetorical lament, and his master, film star-politician Hero's nirvanic reply, are quite uncharacteristic of Sealey's comic-burlesque novel; yet they contain in core the sentiment the writer roundly douses you in: it's all a big joke, all 'leela'; and the joke's on all of us.

Importantly, Sealey is not laughing at the reader, but with him, as he beams his fey imagination onto the most combustible and insane of Indian obsessions: films and politics. Characters are relentlessly pitchforked into *masala* scenarios, where they conduct themselves with the larger-than-life elan that the Indian politician-star has always legitimately displayed. Anything can happen in Indian films, in Indian politics, and in Sealey's *Hero*—all three are equally fabulous.

Hero, nee Ranga, steals life-juices from NTR, MGR, Amitabh Bachchan; and later, in his leader's *avatar*, from politicians of the '70s and '80s. Born in the deep south, endowed of a mystic hump that enthrals mostly women but also men, Hero progresses from running a mechanic's establishment under a tree to earning the spotlight as a human cannonball in the Astro Circus to becoming a megastar in Bombay. He marries Parsi starlet U.D. Cologne, narrator Zero's flame; and develops an enduring filmi animosity with 'Number 1 Villain' Nero, and 'Number 2 Villain' Captain Memo.

Nero, one day, shoots him on the sets; though Hero survives, it is as a *kana*, a one-eyed. Opaque goggles make their appearance; then GJ, machinator and Machiavellian kingmaker. A padyatra is undertaken, a by-election won. Hero becomes the leader of the Opposition; and eventually sweeps the stakes at the general election to become prime minister.

Time for nemesis, classical leveller, to put in an appearance. Power is the aphrodisiac that will derange: spawn paranoia, foster corruption, encourage gimcrack activity, and unloose totalitarian demons. Allusions of the present abound: Didi (Doordarshan) is Hero's majestic mouthpiece; epics and 900-part pre-vedic serials hold the populace in thrall; and as he drifts further from the pulse of his country, Hero seeks identification with it through the colourful stratagem of pluming himself in the variegated headgear of different peoples of the land. Finally, he retreats into Red Fort, fearing assassination and assault; both of which eventually come, garnished with appropriate suspense.

Sealey is an out-and-out post-modernist writer, flogging both language and form to difficult limits. With his eclecticism, his obtrusively self-conscious narrator, his relentless humour—spoofing, high farce, hysterical sequences: the language coruscates—he recalls writers like Martin Amis, J.P. Donleavy, and, of course, Desani's Hatter. Sealey concerns himself with 'serious' issues—nature of power, poverty, corruption, fidelity to vocation, illusion, life, death—but only after strapping on a funny mask. And even as he plots out a complex structure—two narrators; a real-life film within a real-life story—he ensures it reads racily—car chases, rape, cabaret, sudden twists—like a good formula blockbuster from Bollywood.

Hero's singular triumph, however, is that it is unabashedly Indian, rooted in contemporary sensibility, eschewing all explanatory noises, and accessible above all to the indigenous reader, who can appreciate best the Indianisms. Among them wonderful cinematic sound effects like 'dhish', 'phataak', 'thaain', and the masterly 'bubbachik, bubbachik' of Dumpy Shinde's synthesiser as cabaret artiste Flora Fountain prepares to shake a depilated leg. A touch of genius, to which adequate justice is not done, is the caste of Zero: *Bahuroopiya*, of a thousand faces; men who disguise to deceive, then reveal their true identity, and touch for a small payment. Somewhat, like the post-modern novelist.

Hero is one more star turn by Allan Sealey. And coming in the wake of that formidable epic *The Trotter-Nama*, establishes him most firmly in the vanguard of contemporary Indo-Anglian writing.

—TARUN J. TEJPAL

Sealey: formidable linguistic-technical skills

EXCERPT

And as peace broke out on the subcontinent it was found that there was money for schools in every village, for rural fair-price-shops, for cooperatives and tube-wells...Moneylenders were banished by common consent to the Sunderbans where they were gobbled up by tigers, absentee landlords had their titles annulled while landless labourers kept the land they worked, grain-hoarders were put to cleaning drains, untouchables got to drink out of upper-caste wells, unseeables got their photographs taken, mafia dons were put to work in the coal mines while the miners played kabaddi...private schools became monuments, hospitals became cow-sheds, servants ate with their former masters, child-labourers flew kites, politicians went into the movies, judges danced for no reason, magistrates refused bribes, movie stars read *War and Peace*, pensioners wore pashmina shawls, widows sang love songs, beggars rode horses, telephones worked, televisions didn't...

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cinematic Eye

Stories steeped in humanism

SNAKE AND OTHER STORIES
by PREMENDRA MITRA
Translated by RINA and PRITISH NANDY
Seagull Books
Price: Rs 100; Pages: 133

IF you've always believed that great Indian writing collapses when translated into English, think again. Pritish Nandy and his wife Rina's translation of Premendra Mitra's short stories is effortlessly fluid. But that's not the only surprise in this handsomely produced collection from the stable of Seagull Books, a Calcutta-based publishing house which has justly earned renown for backing books on the arts.

The second surprise is the discovery—for the non-Bengali—of an excellent writer in Premendra Mitra, whose unerring eye for detail has a near-cinematic authenticity; whose liquid prose flows as smoothly as a boat in a Ganga tributary; and whose original imagery paints vivid landscapes of the people he writes about.

You are a constant companion, an observer, as Mitra's camera guides you through the ramshackle household of a prostitute on a dark, stormy night in "Beyond the Home"; or when he pans to the benign commotion of a home with underlying tensions simmering under the surface where the mother has brought together her married daughters in "Reunion"; or when Mitra closes in on a most unlikely protagonist in "Just a Clerk" and you share his small triumphs and feel the lump in your throat as he loses his simple and homely wife due to puerperal fever.

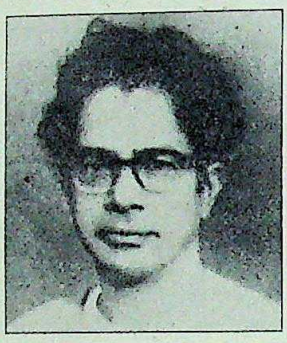
The 12 stories in this collection carry the aroma of the kerosene lamp that glows in the hut; and they evoke Edgar Allen Poe-like images when Mitra writes of old mansions in ruins, beams that are crumbling, faces that are gnarled, walls that are about to collapse, ceilings with looming cobwebs, the shrieks of bats, and the ever-present hint of evil lurking around the corner. The classic example of this is "Perhaps", in which the conclusion is ambiguous, for the protagonist watches a woman fall off a tottering bridge—by accident or design—and lets his imagination run rampant like a Bengal tiger in the Sundarbans, creating an eerie but unforgettable story.

The first story "Discovering Telenapota", which found its way in Mrinal Sen's *Khandhar*, works much better than the celluloid version which was burdened with myriad subplots. The sparse bare story takes you on an ethereal plane, with an old lady waiting for the bridegroom to arrive for her niece, Jamini—a lotus in the slush—and the protagonist impersonates the elusive bridegroom, in a manner similar to Apu in Ray's *Apur Sansar*. But unlike Apu he doesn't go back to Jamini.

Only one complaint: the introductory essay about Mitra's craft, "In Search of the Meaning of Man" by Saroj Bandyopadhyaya, would have been better placed as an epilogue—assuming that this is the first introduction to Mitra's writing outside Bengal. The stories are eloquent enough to speak for themselves.

—SALIL TRIPATHI

Mitra: liquid prose



EXCERPT

Holidays arrive. On such days, there are special meals... They are days for lazing around, chatting: the simple, happy conversation of an unpretentious clerk and his wife. They never get lost in a maze of difficult arguments; they easily find solutions to things. She asks him, 'Doesn't one sin when killing a mosquito?' He replies, 'Of course! Don't kill them any more.' She acquiesces, 'Fine.'

Intense Musings

Poetic look at Pakistan

MEATLESS DAYS
by SARA SULERI
Flamingo
Price: Rs 65; Pages: 186

MEATLESS Days, as its name could suggest, is fibreless: so fused are the private and public spheres of the author's life in these vignettes which are really poems in the clothing of prose. Pakistan's turbulent history falls like shafts of light on these intense autobiographical musings which flow in a stream of cerebration. 1947, 1965, 1971, Bhutto's hanging, are the backstage happenings filtered through Suleri's consciousness. Her fine perceptions can condense the troubled psyche of Pakistan into epigramatic prose. On Bhutto's hanging: "...a brute energy was building up in Pakistan, as though the ghost of that populace... had summoned up its strength again, but this time for revenge."

Basically, the book—a series of essays really—is about the author's family and the people and places important to her. Through reminiscences she lays bare the contradictions tearing apart Pakistan. She questions Partition and the road Pakistan has taken. While her father, Z.A. Suleri, former editor of *Pakistan Times* would mourn the severing of East Pakistan as a blow to the two-nation theory, she would count the loss in terms of lives.

She can be funny, too. The title chapter is a spin-off from her belatedly shocked realisation of what those kapuras she ate as a child really were. Deliciously irreverent is the description of *iftar*, the evening feasts during Ramzan, "converting what began as an act of penance into a godly and obligatory cocktail hour".

With her first book, Suleri has jumped onto the bandwagon of subcontinental expatriate writers. But she is not on the back-to-the-roots trip. Nor has she taken on racism as has Hanif Kureshi, who is also half-British. She writes about Pakistan as one who is of it, yet not in it. Half-way from there, she is more evocative.

—MADHU JAIN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The world won't stop because it's raining...

Aren't you glad there is Duckback®

Duckback®
NYLON RAINWEAR

Made from tough, durable, 100% waterproof nylon material, in a range of smart designs and colours.

Lightweight and handy, Duckback Nylon Rainwear are supple enough to fold away neatly into any two-wheeler side compartment.

Bengal Waterproof Limited
41, Shakespeare Sarani, Calcutta-700 017

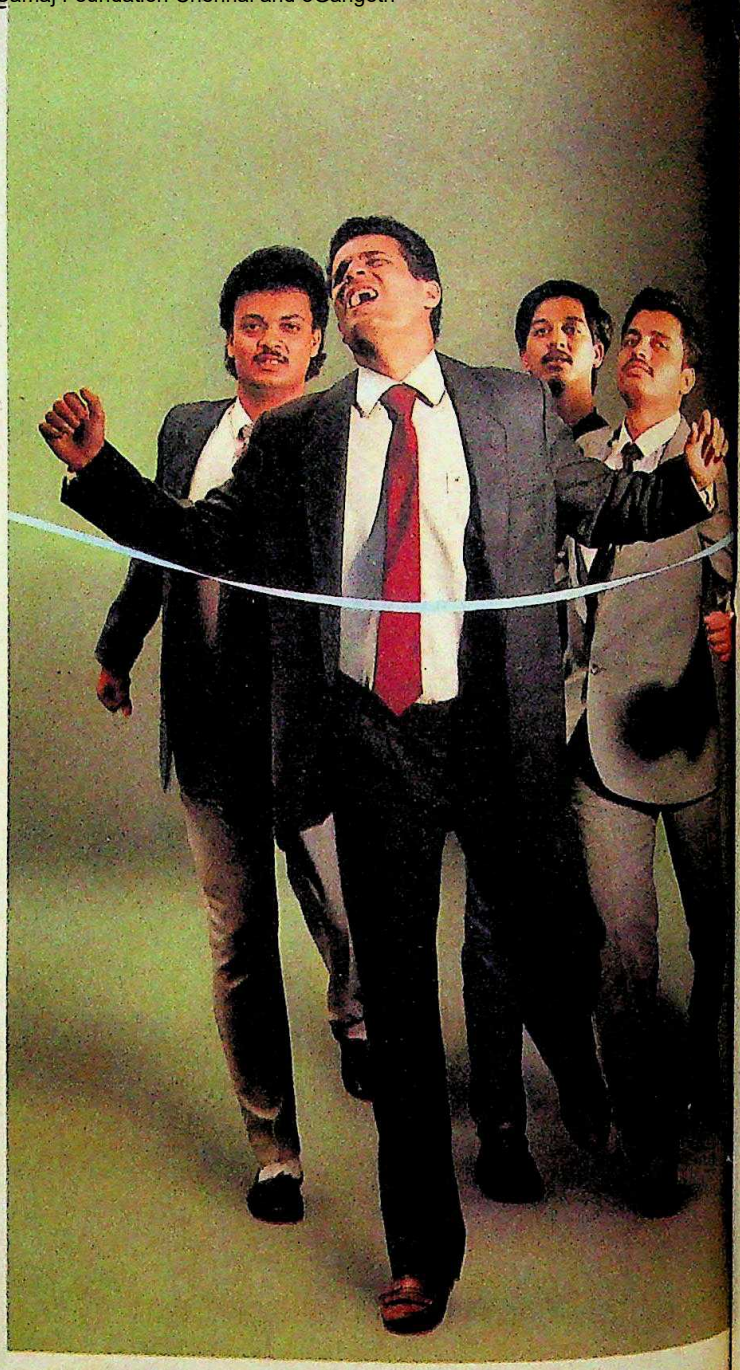
Duckback. Quality. Proven for over 68 years.

Milaap/AB/M/89

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE ONLY WAY TO STAY AHEAD IN THE GAME, WE'VE LEARNT, IS TO HAVE THE COMPETITION BREATHING DOWN OUR NECKS.



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Kirloskar Electric have been particularly blessed. We couldn't find better or more talented people to keep us on our toes. By the time we have made a breakthrough and done something for the first time in India and are about to catch our breath, more often than not, we find that our competitors have caught up with us. What more can we ask for? They keep driving us to do one better, to come up with other firsts.

We designed, developed and built India's first no-break genset for the Nuclear Power Corporation. And then followed it up with India's first earthquake-proof no-break set. We were the first to supply Indian mudgun motors for blast furnace operations to steel plants. We developed the first totally indigenously designed CNC attachment in the country called the Companion which won the prestigious FIE award at IMTEX '89. The first underground 3 · 2 MVA, 11000/605 volts, class 'C' insulated dry type transformer for the Metro Railway in Calcutta. The first 125 KW DC roller table motors for the blooming and slabbing mill at the Bokaro Steel Plant. The first generator for dumb power barges. We could go on and on. In many a case, the competition has followed on our heels.

What is it that inspires people to place such confidence in our ability to do jobs that others can't? Quite simply, technological prowess and engineering excellence. They know that we've earned these the hard way. Not by borrowing them from abroad but by sheer grit. And by committing our time, money and effort without any guarantee of success.

Everybody knows that we make some of the finest standard AC and DC drives, transformers, welding equipment and systems, motorised gear units, equipment for defence and industrial electronics including CNCs, in the country. Obviously we have some of the best electrical and electronic design engineers. Our customers have implicit trust in us and the superior quality and reliability of our products. As India's leading private sector industrial electrics and electronics company, you'll agree it would be easy, very easy for us to get complacent.

But God bless the competition. They won't allow us to rest. Not for a minute. Right now we are at a major stage of growth in every one of our product ranges, not to mention new areas we are getting into.

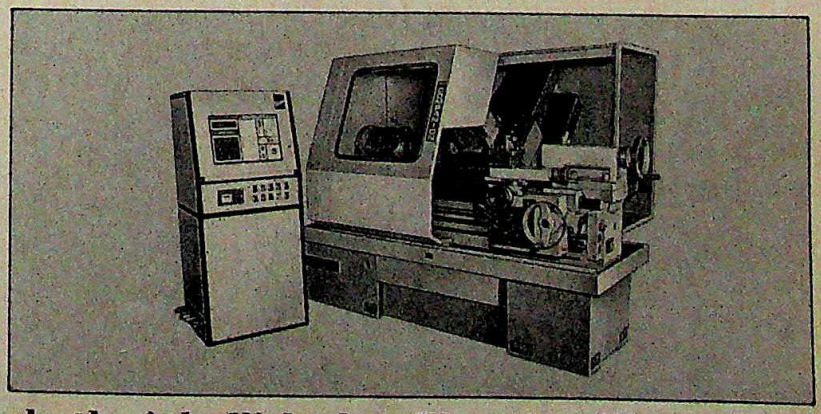
But action and not talk is our major strength. And the willingness to take on challenges that others shy away from. The one single reason why we are the prime movers in our field is because the centre of gravity at Kirloskar Electric is the customer. So long as we are the first to anticipate and respond to his needs, we'll continue to be first in our field.

Stay tuned in for all our new firsts.

KIRLOSKAR ELECTRIC CO. LTD.

INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICS AND ELECTRONICS

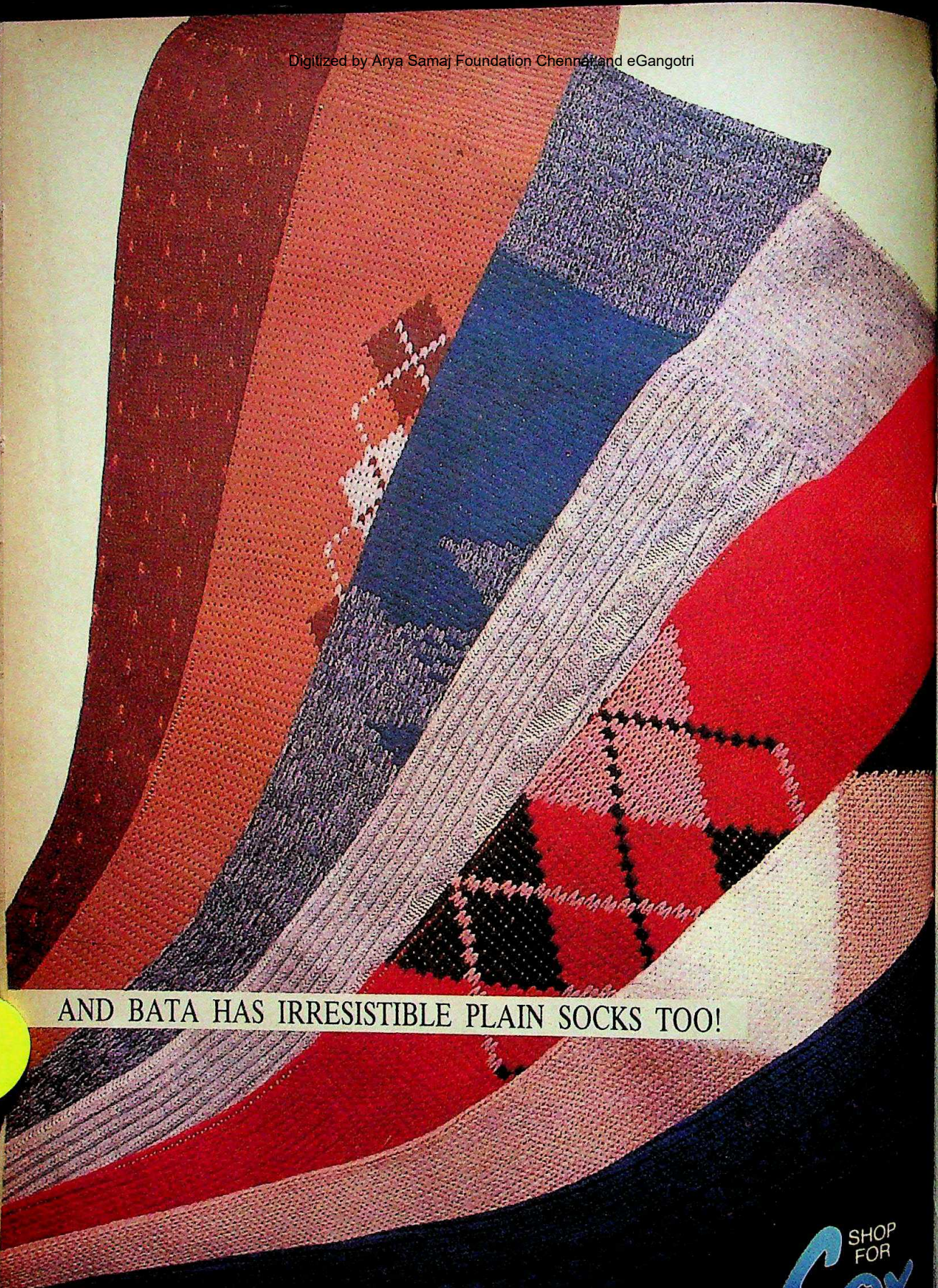
Regd. Office : Industrial Suburb, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010.



When nobody else can do the job, Kirloskar Electric will.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



memorabl
the center
the Nehru
Committee
published
University
edited by
Sharada
thasarathi
Kumar,
and mysel

We w
year on th
to nearly
ally know
contribute
Parthasar
took care
side. The
heart-war

Soviet
hail Gorb
deeply pe
promptly.
George Bu
tenterhool
dent Fid
piece arriv
had gone
had to be

When
in Havana
had gent
him abou
He then t
markable
the 15th
session of
ment of t
tions in Ne
Castro, to
US Govern
hotel in Ma
The irrepre
retary-gen
his problem
tent in the
huge no
among the
pigeons. S
Having m
something
modest Ha

BY K. NATWAR SINGH

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

A Poll Casualty

THE centenary of Jawaharlal Nehru was to be celebrated on November 14, 1989. The Lok Sabha elections swallowed up what would have been a memorable occasion. One casualty was the centenary volume brought out by the Nehru Centenary Implementation Committee. It is a handsome book, published by the Oxford University Press, and edited by S. Gopal, H.Y. Sharada Prasad, G. Parthasarathi, Ravinder Kumar, Sheila Dikshit and myself.

We worked over a year on the book. I wrote to nearly 50 internationally known individuals to contribute to the volume. Parthasarathi and Dikshit took care of the Indian side. The response was heart-warming.

Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev sent his deeply perceptive article promptly. US President George Bush kept us on tenterhooks. Cuban President Fidel Castro's piece arrived after we had gone to press and had to be squeezed in.

When I met Castro in Havana in 1988, I had gently reminded him about the article. He then told me a remarkable story about the 15th anniversary session of the establishment of the United Nations in New York in September 1960. Castro, to the great annoyance of the US Government, decided to attend. No hotel in Manhattan would put him up. The irrepressible Cuban informed secretary-general Dag Hammarskjold of his problem and threatened to pitch his tent in the UN grounds. This really set a huge non-diplomatic Cuban cat among the UN Secretariat's diplomatic pigeons. Somehow the crisis passed. Having made his point, Castro did something original. He took rooms in a modest Harlem hotel. And who was his first caller there? Nehru. "I was 34 years old, unknown, uncertain, tense and here was the great prime minister of great India, a world famous statesman, twice my age (Nehru was 71) calling on me. His visit gave me tremendous self-confidence and reassurance. How can I forget Nehru's kindness and thoughtfulness? You will have the article." Castro said this with emotion and warmth of feeling.

Krishna Menon, Castro, Nehru: warmth of feeling

Carrying tributes by Tagore, Churchill, Tito and Russell, the book is a celebration and would have pleased Nehru.

The volume includes the tributes of several world-renowned personalities like Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi, Winston Churchill, Clement Attlee, Martin Luther King Jr, John F. Kennedy, Sardar Patel, Rajendra Prasad, Josip Broz Tito and Bertrand Russell. The book is a celebration and would have pleased and tickled Nehru.

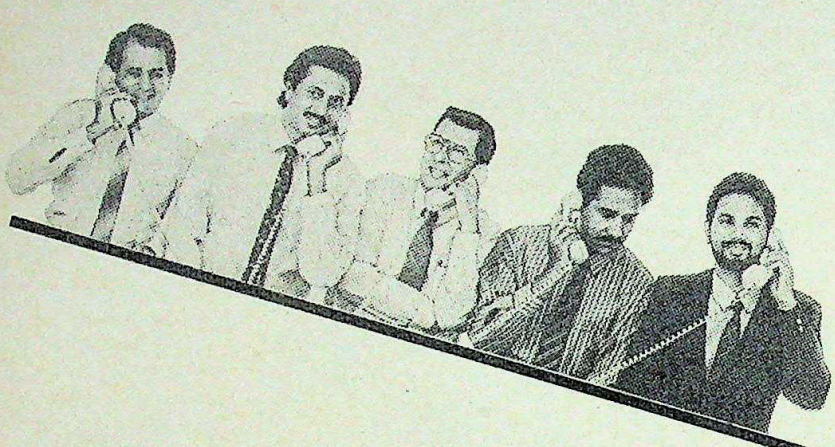
That major undertaking—*Selected Works of Jawaharlal Nehru, Second Series*—edited with formidable thoroughness by S. Gopal has brought out another bulky number. Volume 8 is 480 pages long and covers just 11 weeks from October 6, 1948. Much of it is devoted to Nehru's preoccupation with Kashmir, his search for a suitable formula for India to remain in the Commonwealth after becoming a republic, relations with Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia. Nehru, like Churchill, wrote frequent didactic notes to his colleagues in government and the Congress. Government was not run through the telephone from "PM House" but from South Block. No one dare cut administrative corners. Nehru and Sardar Patel treated civil servants with courtesy and got the best out of them. They did not blame the bureaucracy for policy failures. Things are different now. The rot started with the Emergency and since then it has been downhill all the way.

The fifth and final volume of Nehru's *Letters to Chief Ministers 1958-64* was yet another election casualty. There are 91 letters in all, the last written on May 21, 1963. In the earlier letters, 1958-61, the old spark is visible now and again, but thereafter the gaps increase. No letters between October 1961 and March 1962. Nothing on the liberation of Goa, December 1961. Nothing on his visit to Washington to meet Kennedy in November 1961. After the conflict with the Chinese in October-November 1962, Nehru's problems intensified and he was a broken man. If he had died in 1960, the perfect symmetry of his life would not have been spoilt.

Taken as a whole these five volumes, so meticulously edited by G. Parthasarathi, are an impressive testimony to Nehru's greatness and public virtue. Unfortunately they will largely be unread for such is the current political weather in the country.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



The NATELCO 90's EPABX System allows your Telephone Operator to handle twice as many calls as she normally can. It has special visual and audible cues that show her the status of all extensions along with the order and status of incoming calls. Helping her save the time she wastes in keeping the calling party on hold, just because she doesn't know whether the extension of the called party is free or not. That's not all, one button access to all extensions and otherwise complex functions like transfer, automatic hold, barge-in, automatic camp-on, release key, speed dialing, night mode, etc. keep her free to handle more calls. Yes, in terms of ef the NATELCO 90'S EPABX can certainly turn your Op into a Super Woman. ■ **User Friendly Too:** The NA 90's EPABX is so advanced that it's incredibly simple It does not tax your memory to remember a long list of for various functions. It comes with telephone sets that specially dedicated keys with the function clearly speci words. Though these functions are standard in any EPA

research te users to rem **Technolog** CO EPABX S s available i ogy. And yo ogy means ess expensive The NATE

NATELCO

TOTAL COMMUNICATION SYSTE

Technology so advanced it's so simple to u

AL TELECOM 40/14, Sawroo 025-560 001. Te

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Can the EPABX System you are about to install turn your Telephone Operator into a Super Woman?

The NATELCO 90's EPABX can.

mode, etc.
terms of e
rn your Op
oo: The NA
bly simple
a long list of
ne sets that
clearly spec
d in any EP

research tells us that they are seldom used as they users to remember a long list of numerical codes. **Technology Behind The Benefits:** What makes CO EPABX System so much superior to other EPABX s available in India? It's the very latest C-MOS, VLSI ogy. And you well know in electronics, later ogy means more compact, more reliable equipment ss expensive to buy and maintain. ■ **The NATELCO** The NATELCO range of communication systems also include, apart from the EPABX, feature-packed and futuristic multibutton feature phones, key phone systems and computerised telex machines. ■ **Proved 500 Times Over:** The efficiency and reliability of the NATELCO range of communication systems can be gauged by the fact that in just a span of one year, it has over 500 installations in leading organisations. If you can find an EPABX System that offers you as much as the NATELCO 90's EPABX System..... go ahead and buy it.

MADISON-NT-138

AL TELECOM OF INDIA • F-16/17, Commerce Centre, 78, Tardeo Road, BOMBAY-400 034. Tel: 4938080, 4947788 Telex: 11-76180 Fax: (9122)
41/14 Sawroop Complex, Karve Road, PUNE-411 004. Tel: 332074/1352 Telex: 145679 • Sommerset, B-203 Opp. Vijaya Bank, M.G. Road,
-560 001. Tel: 568128 • 405, Ashoka Estate, 24, Barakhamba Road, NEW DELHI-110 001. Tel: 3310299, 3315099 Telex: 68162795

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

NIFT

Out of Fashion

Drastic budget cut threatens to cripple institute

RECENTLY, when Minister of Textiles Sharad Yadav was asked in Parliament whether the Government planned to wind up the high-profile National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT), his answer was a monosyllabic "No". But that terse response was also an attempt to suppress a simmering controversy on the issue, fuelled by charges of political vendetta.

The issue came into the limelight when the Planning Commission announced a drastic cut in the NIFT's annual budget—from Rs4 crore to Rs1 crore. Worse, it asked the Textiles Ministry to instruct the institute to look for alternative sources of funding.

Lamented a faculty member: "We will be forced to close down. The new Government is getting back at the Congress(I) by destroying the institutions set up by it." Added another faculty member: "Initially the commission refused us any funds altogether. It agreed to Rs 1 crore only after diligent persuasion on our part. They thought the NIFT was an 'apna utsav' kind of an elitist, wasteful scheme."

Apparently, the Planning Commission has its reasons. Elaborates member L.C. Jain: "Several good causes compete for budget allocation, including leprosy eradication and emancipation of scavengers. Fashion, in the Indian context, cannot get priority." The line of reasoning seems valid, except that the commission's move nearly sounded the death-knell for NIFT. Says Rathi Vinay Jha, its executive director: "Of the total budget, Rs 1.4 crore goes for payment of rent for the premises at Indira Gandhi Stadium. How can we survive with a mere Rs 1 crore?"

Jha, however, maintains the institute is trying to tighten its belt as much as possible. It has vacated half the building and is trying to squeeze into the remaining half. "The move will save Rs 75 lakh annually," says Jha. NIFT has also decided to economise by cutting down on invitations to foreign experts as guest lecturers by 90 per cent, thus saving Rs 54 lakh a year. Meantime, it has frozen new admissions and 7,000 hopeful applicants wait in suspense.

The measures have been appreciated. Says Ravi Mathur, development commissioner, handlooms: "NIFT has reduced its budget demands to Rs 2.5 crore from Rs 4 crore. This sum can easily be made available either directly or through another agency." Mathur claims the cut in NIFT's budget was only a routine review exercise and should not be viewed as a hostile act.

But Mathur fails to answer why the institute was singled out for such severe curbs, just four years after its inception. Ample grants continue to flow towards older institutes like the National Institute for Design in Ahmedabad, the National School of Drama in Delhi and various management institutes. Queries a student: "Why should we become scapegoats in political games?"

Contrary to its popular image, NIFT does more than organise fashion shows and train a handful of students in the art of fashion designing. It is the only institute in the eastern hemisphere to provide an integrated range of courses related to all aspects of garment industry, including garment manufacturing technology, apparel merchandising and marketing, and fashion designing. Says Jha: "NIFT is a human resource development institute. It provides key support to the garment export industry and generates employment for those who make beautiful clothes for people." All the students of the batch that has passed out have been absorbed by the industry in highly paid jobs.

For Jain, that is further justification for the budget cuts. Says he: "If NIFT is so crucial to the industry, let it pay for it." The institute has now been compelled to approach the Apparel Export Promotion Council (AEPC) for funding 50 per cent of its expenditure. Expectedly, the proposal is arousing concern. Says Roopak Malik, apparel merchandising student: "AEPC will dictate terms if it funds us. It wants our schedules and standards cut down, which will render NIFT like hundreds of silly polytechnics in the country." Questions Serah Eapen, fashion designing student: "When the Bombay film industry does not fund the Pune film institute, why should the garment industry fund us? Why lump us with the extravagances of the previous government?"

Obviously, the Government is not worrying about whether it is being fair to NIFT or not. When governments change, priorities change—and someone has to pay for it. —SHARMILA CHANDRA

ADITYA ARYA

The institute has been forced to tighten its belt. New admissions have been frozen leaving around 7,000 applicants waiting in suspense.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JK PAPER CARRIES ON THE MAGIC OF COMMUNICATION

Communication

The magic which has made man the undisputed master of the Universe. With power over beast and nature.

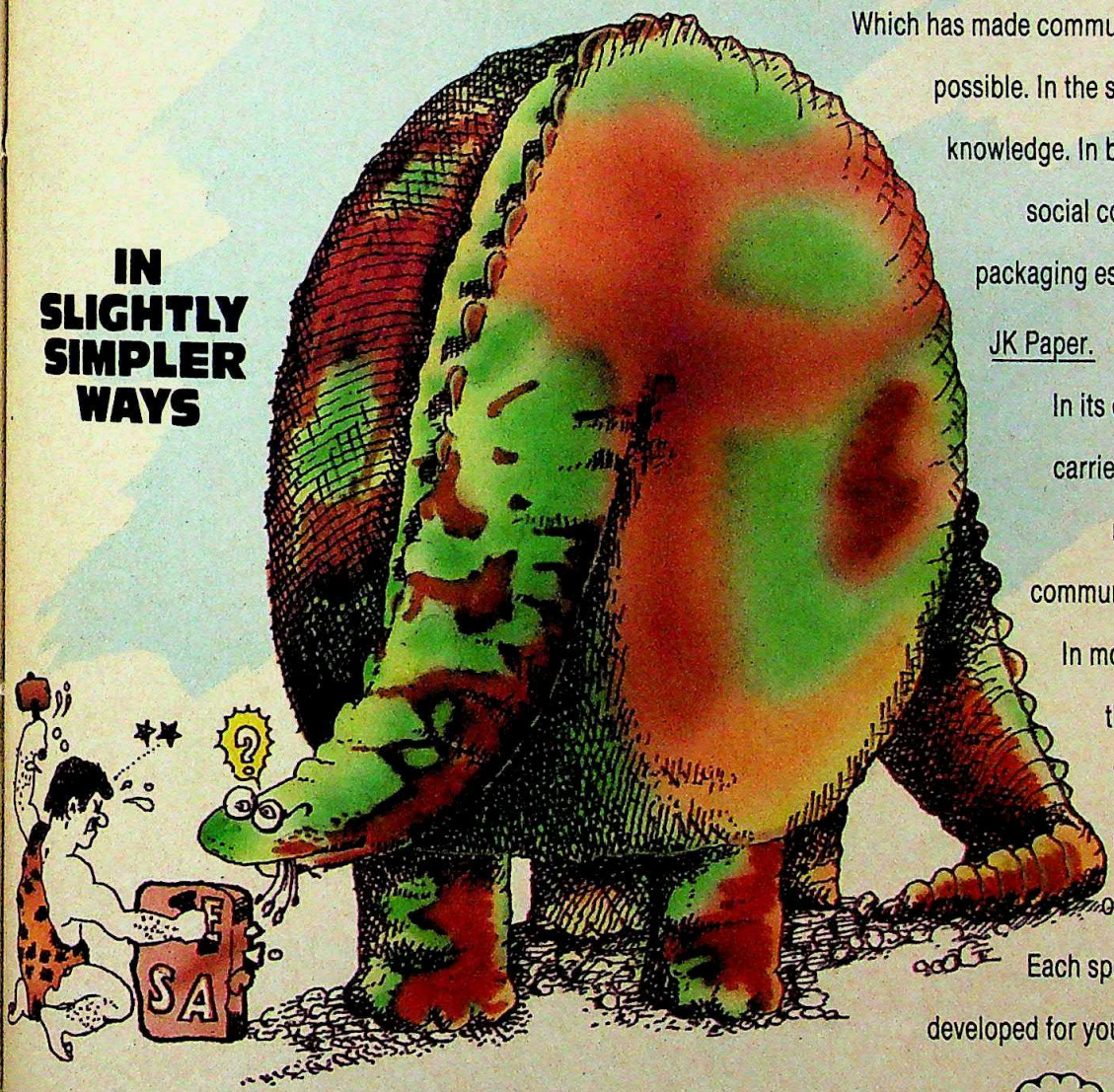
And Paper.

Which has made communication possible. In the spread of knowledge. In business, social contact or packaging essentials.

JK Paper.

In its own way carries on this magic of communication. In more ways than one. Through its range of papers. Each specifically developed for your needs.

IN SLIGHTLY SIMPLER WAYS



JAYKAY

JK PAPER
A DIVISION OF
STRAW PRODUCTS LTD.

JK BOND • JK AIRMAIL • JK POSTER • JK SUPER COPIER • JK COTE PAPER & BOARDS • JK CREAMWOVE • JK MAPLITHO

FS Advertising/JKP/400

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Performance that's out to capture a lot of fans.

VIDEOCON

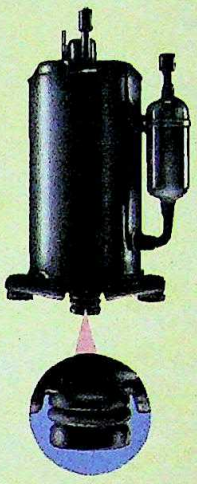
AIR CONDITIONERS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

troducing Videocon Air Conditioners. anufactured under D & D supply agreement ith Matsushita Electric Company, Japan, the wners of brand name 'National'.

Videocon unfurls Japanese expertise in India. Technology that's the world's most advanced. Air Conditioners that are a class apart. In performance so powerful... simply captivating!



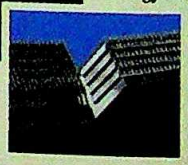
High Performance Rotary Compressor

It's what separates the Videocon Air Conditioner from all other air conditioners in India. A compressor so compact, with cooling efficiency that's at par with International Standards. At the same time the design is tough enough to withstand Indian tropical conditions.

Super Quiet Operation

The Videocon Air Conditioner incorporates an ultra thin heat exchanger and specially designed sirocco fan, propeller fan, fan motor and rotary compressor. What's more, the rotary compressor is mounted on a vibration-absorbing rubber base and the entire air conditioner housed in heavy insulation.

All this gives you a whisper quiet operation.

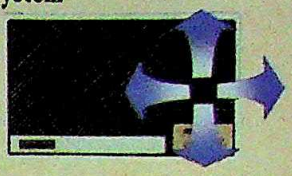


High-Energy Efficiency Design

Engineered to operate on as little energy as possible, it can save on electricity bills. All this being possible due to the Louver Fins, Grooved Copper Tubing and the Rotary Compressor.

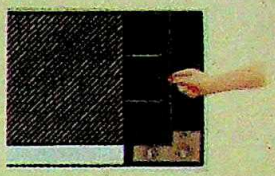
4-Way Air Deflection System

At the touch of a switch, you can control the air direction from side to side. While the louvers adjust the vertical air flow.



One Touch Air Filter

Quick, easy sliding of the filter, without removing the grill facilitates cleaning You don't have to rely on a technician.



Super Service

The Videocon factory-trained technicians posted in every city can give you service that's most prompt and reliable.

So, if yours is a Company constantly on the move, move on to the most forward-looking Air Conditioner. Videocon – it's sheer performance at work!

Yes, I am impressed with the features of the Videocon Air Conditioner.
Please send me more information on the product.

Name: _____

Designation: _____

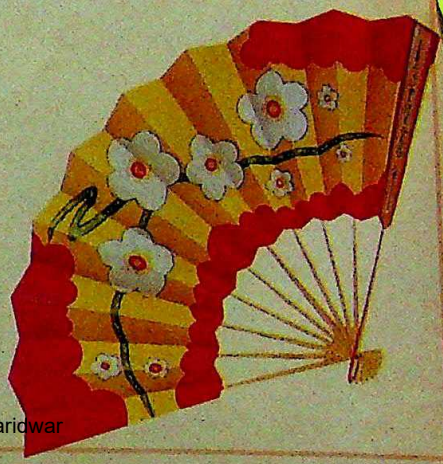
Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Mail Coupon to: **Videocon International Ltd.**
Post Box No. 11741
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021.

1.5 ton Air Conditioners in Ivory White and Wood Grain finish.

1 year warranty



Exceptional. Sensational. So National.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

In Europe they call it "a revolution in design". In India, "the Florentine collection".

There hasn't been anything like this ever before in India.

Imaginatively designed, superbly crafted bath fittings that blend so beautifully with today's lifestyle.

All in a choice of 3 finishes — the classic Chromium, the elegant White & Gold and the stunning Black & Gold.

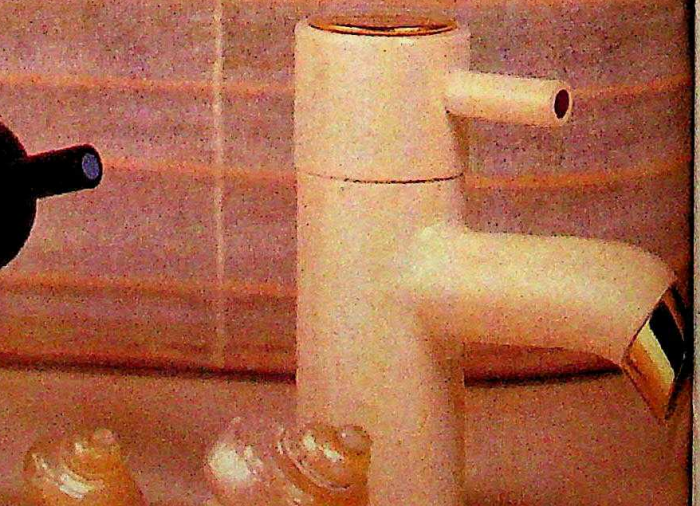
Each of them comes to you with the convenience of full flow of water at just a quarter turn of the lever.

And yet for all its beauty and convenience, the Florentine collection is surprisingly inexpensive.

In point of fact, it's Jaquar's well-known quality and workmanship at its finest.

Florentine collection

from • J·A·Q·U·A·R



Jaquar

For a closer look at the entire Florentine collection, visit your nearest Jaquar dealer or contact our Marketing Representative at Bombay : Ph. : 6321761, Bangalore : Ph. : 321900, Calcutta : Ph. : 449129, Chandigarh : Ph. : 42924, Delhi : Ph. : 7117411, 7215...

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

JAQUAR & CO. PVT. LTD., C-20, S.M.A. Co-op. Industrial Estate, Delhi-110 033.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MADHYA PRADESH

Dangerous Drugs

Medicines are made in shocking conditions

STACKS of dirty bottles litter the ground. Women are washing clothes and the floor is awash with dirty water. Amidst all this garbage, a few workers are busy packing coloured liquids in bottles.

This is the laboratory of Sam Kem, manufacturer of medicinal suspensions (estimated turnover Rs 7 lakh).

A visit to Readycure Pharmaceuticals (turnover Rs 20 lakh), in a residential colony, can be equally shocking. The management refuses permission to photograph the factory. The chemist dips his hand, without any protective gloves, into a drum and places a few white tablets on his bare palm. "These are choloroquin tablets," he explains.

The bustling industrial town of Indore is dotted with about 500 registered pharmaceutical units. For a town with a population of 10 lakh, the number is staggering. So much so that there seems to be a dearth of names for units. One unit calls itself Ordeal Laboratories.

If the way most of these units are maintained is any indication, it is indeed an ordeal—for the customers. Eighty per cent of the units have dirty premises, unhygienic manufacturing methods and have been prosecuted at one time or another.

The Madhya Pradesh Food and Drug Administration (FDA) banned the sale and supply of 216 substandard drugs over the last six months. Says Dr J.J. Nerurkar, managing director of Sunita Lab, one of the few reputed companies in Indore: "Hardly 5 per cent of their products are any good."

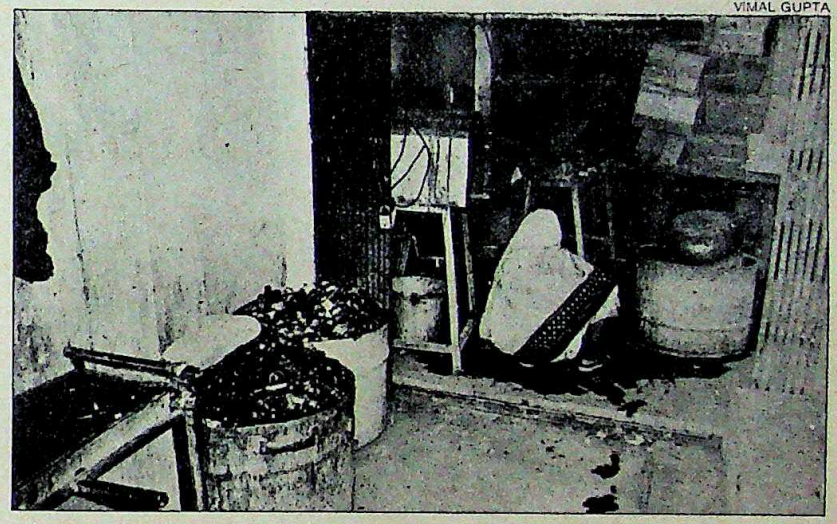
Taking advantage of the preference given to small-scale units and the policy of the Health Department which purchases drugs priced at the lowest rates, a majority of the firms market substandard drugs—which have failed tests of toxicity or sterility, have foreign particles, or do not have the specified ingredients. Says Dr N.P. Mishra, head of the medicine department in Bhopal's Gandhi Medical College: "I never prescribe drugs manufactured by non-reputed companies. I am never sure about their quality."

If the FDA serves notices on the units to implement the Good Manufacturing Practices (GMP) under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act, most of them will have to close down. The GMP rule states: "The factory shall be so situated as to avoid contamination from open sewage, drain, public lavatory or any other factory which produces disagreeable or obnoxious odour or fumes or large quantity of soot, dust or smoke." Adequate working space is required "to avoid the risk of mix up between different drugs or with components". Air-conditioning is required for manufacturing certain drugs and a change room for workers is a must.

Although the GMP had been notified by the Union Government on June 24, 1988, it is yet to be implemented in Madhya Pradesh. The pharmaceutical industry, particularly smaller units, had sought extra time. But this year, the FDA is determined to implement the rules. In February, it sent a circular to its divisional offices asking them to serve notices. Says A.S. Yadav, FDA controller: "We shall first warn, then prosecute them, cancel their licences and ban their products."

The drug manufacturers are predictably up in arms. After having succeeded in stalling the GMP's implementation for two years, they are again lobbying to get it postponed. Says Ashok Jain of Readycure Pharmaceuticals: "The new rules are ridiculous. We set up this unit for Rs 5 lakh. Now we shall have to invest an equal amount just to implement the new rules." Adds Kamal of Ashok Pharmaceuticals, which has capsule machines installed in a dingy eight by eight feet room: "Our licence was suspended for three months last November because we did not employ an analytical chemist." Balraj Navlani of Omex Lab (turnover Rs 30 lakh) alleges: "The GMP has been introduced under pressure from the multinationals."

VIMAL GUPTA



A filthy drug factory in Indore

Eighty per cent of the registered pharmaceutical units in Indore have dirty premises and have often been prosecuted.

Madhya Pradesh boasts of a total of 733 registered pharmaceutical units—95 per cent of them are in the small-scale sector. According to the Madhya Pradesh Pharmaceutical Manufacturers organisation, it is a Rs 350-crore industry in the state, with the turnover of the small-scale sector accounting for Rs 200 crore.

At one time, Indore had more than 1,000 registered pharmaceuticals, most of them ghost units formed for blackmarketing imported chemicals. According to an official inquiry, more than 370 bogus ayurvedic firms had procured import licences worth Rs 1.50 crore in collusion with corrupt FDA officials and sold chemicals worth Rs 64 lakh on the black market in 1972. But no action was taken against any

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

officer despite the recommendations of the Vigilance Commission.

The racketeers, not surprisingly, became bolder. Many of them switched over to preparation of allopathic medicines and a new racket was introduced—faking and misbranding patent medicines. Crystal Chemicals of Indore was manufacturing Novaigen (which can be mistaken for Novalgin). Alkosin copying Elkosin and Codorin to take advantage of the brand name Codopyrin. CIBA's reputed Cibazol became Cizol in the hands of Gul Pharmaceuticals of Indore. Even the packaging and look of these fake products were similar to the originals.

Obviously, a racket of this magnitude is not possible without the collusion of the FDA, the licensing authority. However, when the scandal was exposed—following a big haul of fake and stolen drugs from Indore's M.Y. Hospital—the FDA closed down 13 units and issued notices to 43 others.

The ayurvedic units—there are 245 of them—have a different racket altogether. They not only supply substandard medicines to hospitals but also make a fast buck by procuring quotas of alcohol and narcotics like bhang and marketing them as ayurvedic medicines. Says an industry source: "The trick is to put more alcohol or bhang in the medicines to make it more potent."

Another racket indulged in by the ayurvedic firms is to copy the names of allopathic drugs and market them under similar packaging—like Terracyline and Lodex manufactured as ayurvedic preparations.

But these are all small-time racketeers. The money is where the government supply is. For example, the Madhya Pradesh Health Department every year purchases medicines worth Rs 25 crore. The major source of its supply are the 92 pharmaceuticals registered with the Laghu Udyog Nigam (LUN), a government corporation set up to promote the small-scale industry. LUN's total supply is valued at just Rs 4.50 crore but it causes immense damage.

The LUN is supposed to have a laboratory to test the quality of drugs supplied through it. But the cases of substandard medicines supplied by it are so glaring and so numerous that it appears to be only an eyewash. "There are times when we have discovered that an ampicillin capsule of 250 mg has only 20 mg of the drug in it," says Dr Mishra.

Of the 92 contractors registered with LUN, 39 firms were found to be supplying substandard drugs during the last five months. The products of Priti Pharmaceuticals, Jain Products and Sell Well Pharmaceuticals failed in tests conducted by the FDA as many as five times in five months. No action has been taken against them. It took the authorities five years to close down Alok and Safex, in Ratlam, which were floated by a Congress(I) leader, in spite of many complaints in the Assembly.

Two years ago, the Special Bureau of Investigation, which deals with economic offences in Madhya Pradesh, seized documents relating to property worth Rs 12 lakh from the storekeeper of a hospital and found that a pharmaceutical firm was actually an ice-cream factory.

It is not always the small-scale units which market substandard drugs. In October 1988, two patients died in Bhopal's Hamidia Hospital because of contaminated intravenous (IV) fluids supplied by the public sector Hindustan Antibiotics Ltd (HAL). The reason: even public sector firms get their medicines manufactured by smaller units and market them under their brand names. Incidentally, Madhya Pradesh is the largest manufacturer of IV fluids in the country.

Recently, the Indore bench of Madhya Pradesh High Court ordered prosecution of HAL for supply of IV fluids with suspended particles and fungi. The judges wondered why instead of prosecuting the suppliers the Government simply returned the contaminated bottles and asked for replacements.

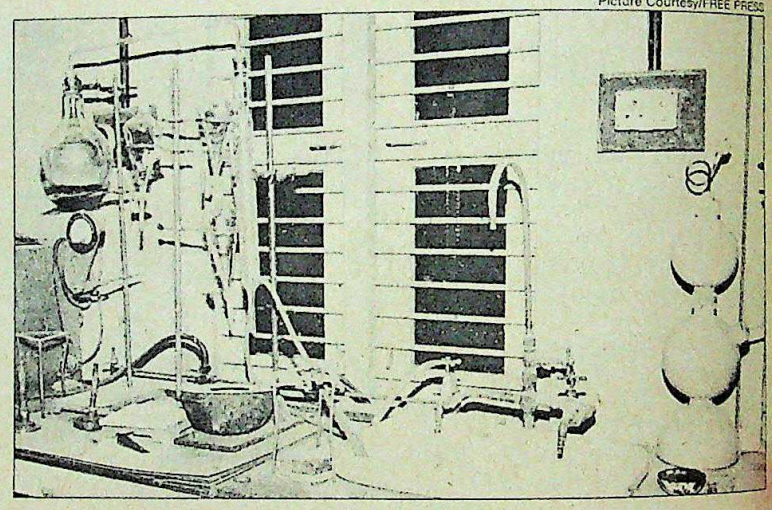
One problem in controlling the unscrupulous elements in the industry is the lack of infrastructural facilities with the FDA. For example, its Bhopal-based laboratory cannot test more than 2,000 samples in a year. And it has no facility to conduct toxicity or micro-biological tests. In such cases, samples have to be sent to Calcutta, which takes up to six months to send results. By which time that batch of medicines is sold.

Manufacturers also argue that sometimes natural causes may lead to deterioration in the quality of drugs, particularly saline. Even bottles of confirmed quality may develop fungus due to damage in transit, absence of standard storage conditions and exposure to excessive temperature. "Vitamins deteriorate very fast on storage," says Madhya Pradesh Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association Secretary Subhash Soni. "The real test for any drug could be whether the manufacturer is prepared to give it to his children," says J.J. Nerurkar.

Many small-scale manufacturers feel that the new regulations being enforced by FDA are a bitter pill. But there is no doubt that the industry in the state needs some stiff medicine.

—N.K. SINGH

Picture Courtesy/FREE PRESS



Seized equipment: deadly neglect

Most of the 500 units manufacture popular drugs in dirty premises, disregarding quality control standards.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some answers to questions about Microwave Ovens from MICROWIN

Speed? That's right. That's exactly what the Microwin Oven Cooker offers. Cooking convenience that's much, much faster than the conventional method. So you save half to one-third of overall cooking time.

Convenience and versatility? It's no, no, no to all complicated procedures. No more waiting and watching. Just place the food on the turntable, close the oven door, set the timer... and voila! Your meal is ready!

But that's not all! You have a choice of 9 power levels. From 10% (warm) to 100% (high) to help with different kinds of cooking, reheating, roasting, simmering, defrosting... and more!

Nutrition and health? Research is the proof. It states that since microwaves cook food faster, most of the nutrients, proteins, vitamins etc. stay within the food. And don't get burnt out. That's why food cooked by microwaves taste delicious and is healthier

Safety? 3 cut-off switches and a double locking device ensures it's absolutely safe. What's more, it never operates unless programmed completely. And it can never be operated with the door open.

Power Consumption? An energy saver indeed! Consumes roughly about a rupee per cooking hour. And look at the variety of dishes you can cook within that hour!

Capacity? One cubic foot is enough for an average family

Indian cooking? A special cook book (the first of its kind) of 101 Indian recipes will help you microwave those appetising Indian dishes in minutes. Be it a stuffed capsicum or a pineapple cake. From a biryani to a gajjar ka halwa.

- *Soft touch control panel*
- *9 power levels*
- *Auto defrost*

International features ? Yes. You can compare the features of the Microwin with the world's best sellers. Have a look at some of them.

- **Magnetron** — the heart of the machine from Toshiba, Japan
- **Soft touch control panel** — can be operated at the touch of a finger
- **Automatic turntable** — ensures the food gets cooked evenly
- **Auto defrost** — designed to perform automatically using 3 different power levels
- **9 power levels** — helps with different kinds of cooking

Now, that we've brought the wonders of the Microwin home to you — wouldn't you like to bring this wonder home for you.

MICROWIN

INDIA'S 1ST MICROWAVE OVEN COOKER

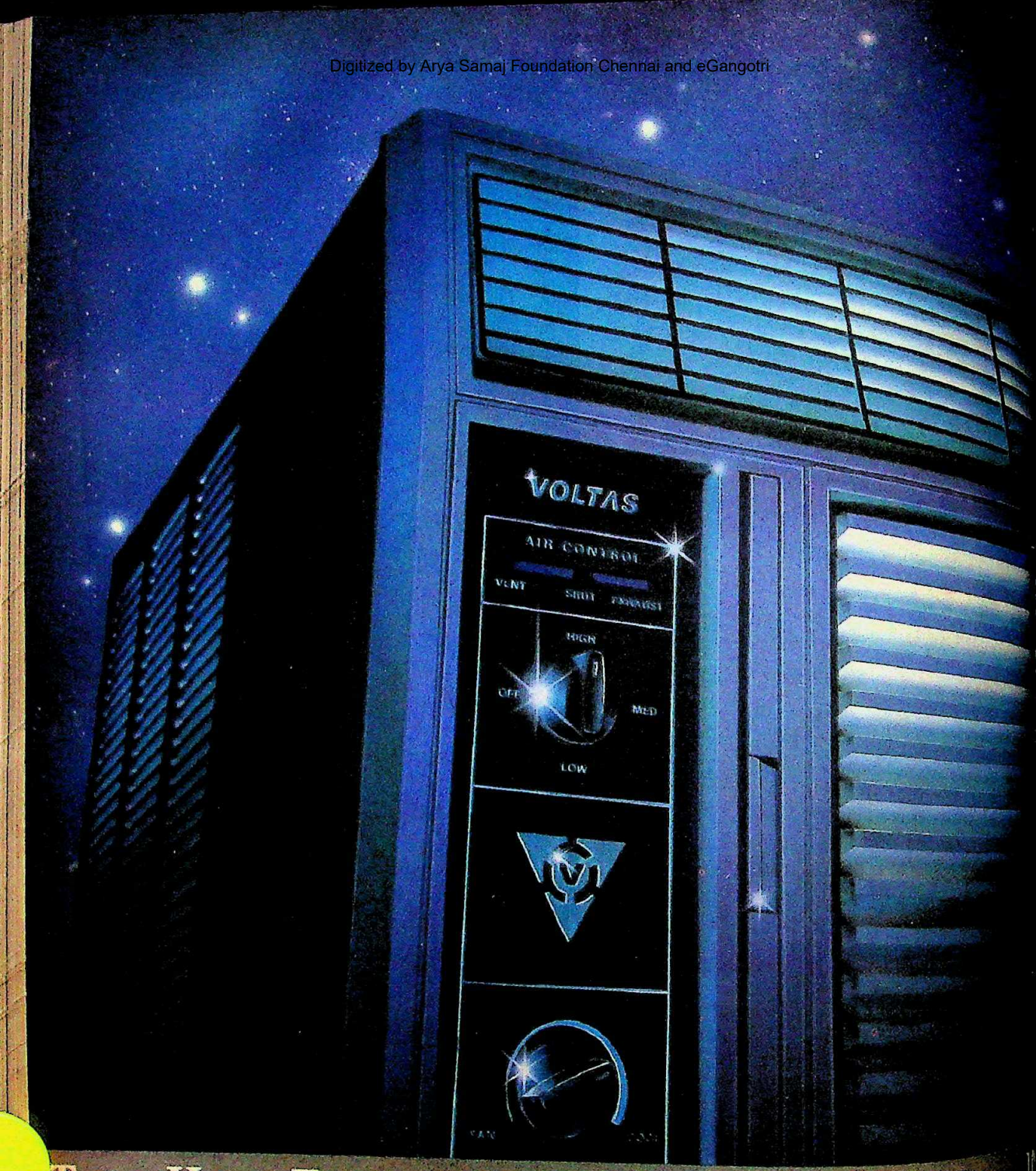
It cooks the way you cook. Only much much faster.

• MICROWIN ELECTRONIX LTD., Post Bag 36, Bhopal 462 016 • Regional Offices: Bombay ✆ 46361. Delhi ✆ 6842819. Bangalore ✆ 236749. Calcutta ✆ 724612. Bhopal ✆ 67913.

MAA COMMUNICATIONS-BOM-MEL-112 B

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



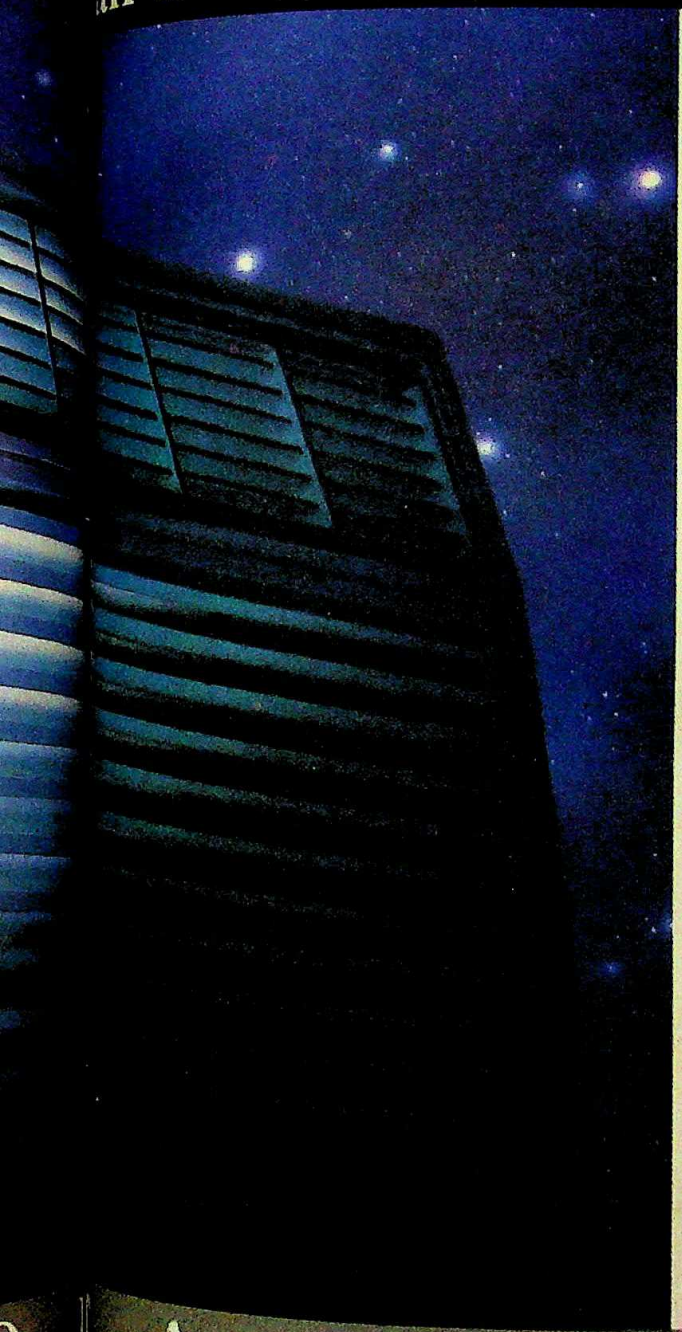
T H E N E W V O

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

VOLTAS LIMITED
Appliances Business Group 19, J.N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038. Phone: 2618131

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Until now you could not get an air conditioner as advanced as this



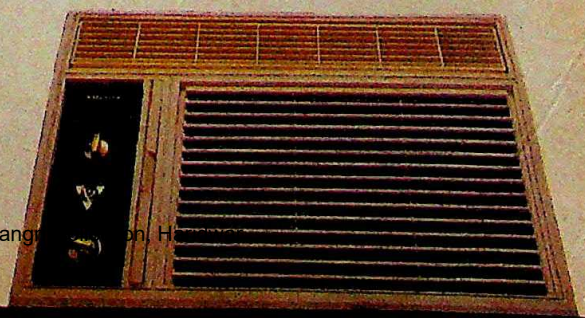
For some, 'good' is not good enough. At Voltas, we felt it was high time someone designed an air conditioner for them. Using the latest innovations in technology to battle compromise. We've done a thorough job of it. Starting with a powerhouse compressor designed to convert every unit of electricity into maximum cooling. Aided by 'triple-ripple' cooling fins to maximise heat exchange. And the new extra-drive fan featuring 3-speed control. Every detail finely tuned, right down to the unique 'slip-out' fabric filter. The result is stunning. Cooling that is quick, constant, noiseless... and evenly distributed. The New Crystal Air Conditioner from Voltas. Now you don't have to make the best of what you have. Simply have the best.

VOLTAS

AIR CONDITIONER

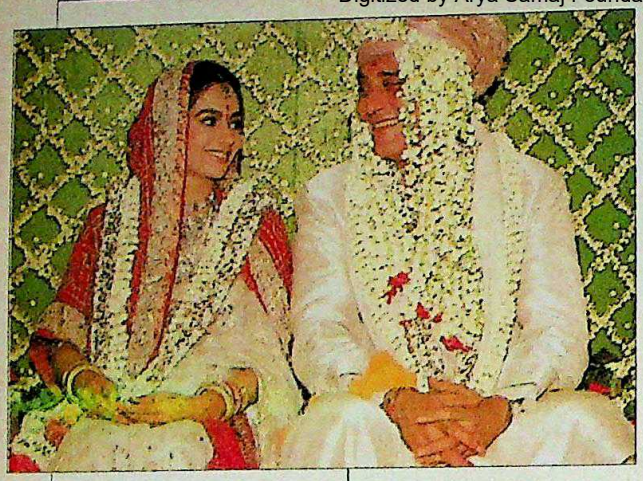
AS CRYSTAL

The fine art of climate control



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Daftary and Vinod Khanna

◆ Long ago the press had labelled him the sexy sanyasi, and **Vinod Khanna**, 43, returned from the sensuously saffron fold of Osho Rajneesh to live up to his reputation. In his second coming he was more in the news for his *affaires de coeur* than for the blockbusters he bestrode. In a succession his name was linked with Sonu Walia, Amrita Singh, et al. But now it's nuptials for him. Last month, he married Kavita Daftary, 30, at a simple ceremony in Bombay. Daftary comes from blue-chip stock, being the daughter of prominent industrialist Sarayu Daftary. Nor is she a helpless housewife; in fact, Daftary helps run the family business. Declares Khanna: "It's a great feeling to be in love. This time it's for keeps." But as the cliche goes: only time will tell.

PRASHANT PANJIAR

◆ There's always been a streak of the unusual in her. Between Kabir Bedi, streaking at Juhu and Odissi obsessions, **Protima Gauri Bedi** has managed to keep herself in the news. Recently, she was back in the public eye when she got the prime minister to inaugurate her Nrityagram or dance school, set up near Bangalore to teach traditional dances in the guru-shishya tradition. Says Protima: "If the Government can spend crores for dams then why not on the lasting traditions of dance?" Damn right too.

Protima Bedi and V.P. Singh

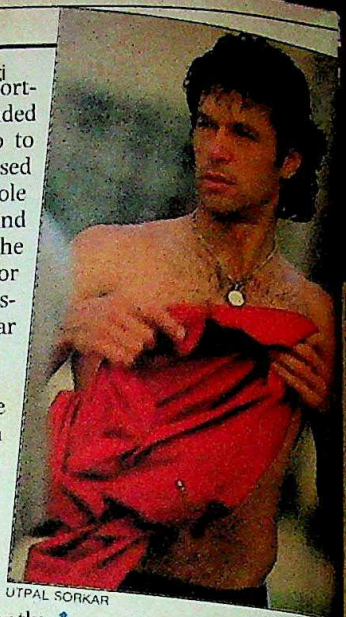
SRINIVAS KUMAR

◆ It's a tale that bears repeating. **Munna** emerged from the backwoods to dance in Paris at the Festival of India. Back home, he was put in Delhi zoo for his own 'benefit'. But last fortnight protestors demanded his release. In a memo to V.P. Singh they criticised Maneka Gandhi for her role in detaining the bear, and described Munna as the sole bread winner of a poor madari's family. A question, clearly, of the bear necessities.

Munna: bear truths

◆ It must be the pounding up and down the pitch hurling inswingers that's taking its toll. Or the adulation from weak-kneed women that's bringing out mindless machismo in the man. Asked recently by *Tatler* why he gets love/hate mail from Indian women, **Imran Khan**, 37, announced: "I think it's all to do with history. Pathans have been going south to sc..w Indian women for centuries." Like many an over-the-hill star, Imran is clearly displaying the fade-out jitters: trying to deliver the verbal bouncer because the real one refuses to rise.

UTPAL SORKAR



Khan: mindless machismo

◆ **Mille Banerjee**, 43, is easily the most important Indian connection in London. As the mastermind behind the gigantic £35 million project, which saw 4.5 million telephone users in London switch last month from the famous 01 line to a new 071 and 081, she oversaw a staff of 10,000 engineers. Says she: "I'm the lady with the message." And it's been taken: now she's a director of British Telecom worldwide. Could she work such a miracle in Calcutta? Wisely, she replies: "No comment."

Mille: perfectly connected

British Telecommunications

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Regn. No. R. N. 28587/75

Kawasaki RTZ. Ride it to believe it.

The Cheetah.
The perfect animal.
The Kawasaki RTZ.
The perfect bike.
Both tough... powerful.
With looks that can kill.
Sleek... and graceful.
The Kawasaki RTZ.
Superbly balanced.
The mean riding machine.

bajaj auto

Bajaj Auto Ltd., Akurdi, Pune 411035.

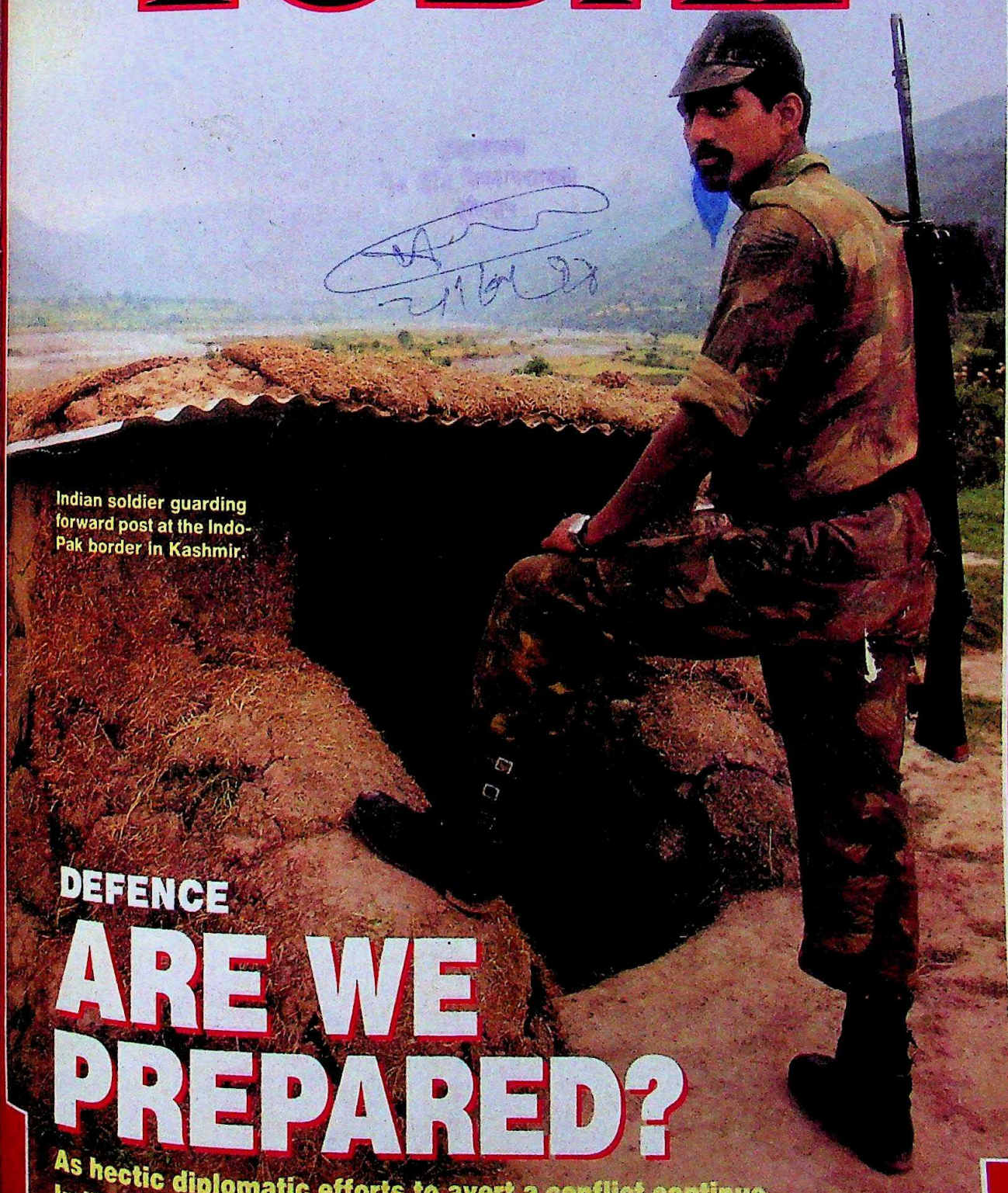
UNTAS BAJ 188 2719

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri
In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA TODAY
JUNE 30, 1990

EXCLUSIVE EXTRACTS:
VIJAY AMRITRAJ'S AUTOBIOGRAPHY
NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: A CONTRIVED CONSPIRACY
MULAYAM SINGH YADAV: CRIMINAL CONNECTIONS



Indian soldier guarding forward post at the Indo-Pak border in Kashmir.

DEFENCE

ARE WE PREPARED?

As hectic diplomatic efforts to avert a conflict continue, Indian and Pakistani forces gear up for the possibility of war.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Bajaj Auto Ltd., Akurdi, Pune 411035.
UNTAS BAJ 188 2719

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some moments mean so much more

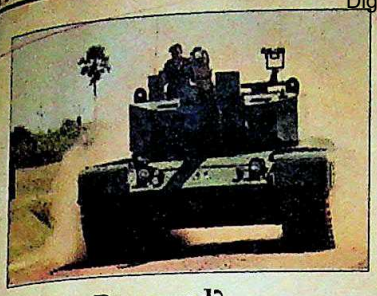
Moments of joy.
Moments of laughter.
Moments of togetherness.
Made more tasteful with Baba.
For complete tobacco satisfaction...
without lighting up.

The unbeatable great original.

BABA®
FLAVOURED CHEWING TOBACCO

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

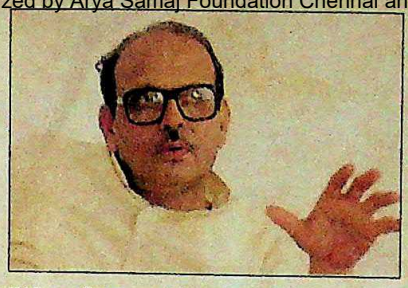
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Are we Prepared?

Even as hectic diplomatic parleys go on to avert a war, both India and Pakistan are shoring up their defence forces for the eventuality of a showdown. Loopholes are being plugged and purchases made. Also, a report from the Kashmir border where a low-intensity conflict is already afoot.

COVER STORY 74



Wrecking Games

The 'national government' conspiracy has cast a web of suspicion and intrigue at the topmost levels of national politics, with the strangest of theories making the rounds. But with both the Left and the BJP standing firmly by him, Prime Minister V.P. Singh's position remains completely secure.

SPECIAL REPORT 24

The Malaise Deepens

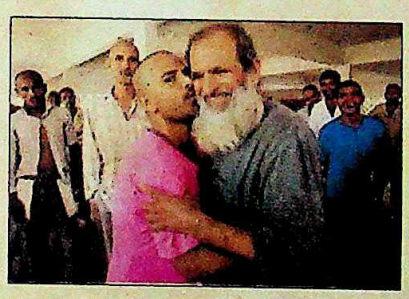
The crisis in Punjab continues to worsen. The Centre has made no political headway in the troubled state, while the law and order situation has deteriorated further. Meanwhile, Mann and Badal are becoming increasingly hardline, making the new governor's task an uphill one.

SPECIAL REPORT 32

Time for Cheer

Beer is gaining social acceptability and is fast becoming the common man's drink. Sales have soared and 500 million bottles are consumed annually, mostly in urban India. Pubs are opening in cities, and a market for strong beer is growing in small towns. A report on the booming industry.

BUSINESS FEATURE 86



Pakistan's 'Father Teresa'

Abdul Sattar Edhi is Pakistan's version of Mother Teresa. The 61-year-old messiah provides food to the hungry, relief to the wounded, and homes to the destitute. Edhi's message of love stands out in strife-torn Karachi. A photo feature and essay that capture the altruistic nature of Edhi's world.

PHOTO ESSAY 132

Courting Glory

From a sickly childhood, Vijay Amritraj rose to become a sports superstar. In his autobiography, he writes of his childhood, the role his mother played in shaping his career, his tennis times, his entry into Hollywood, and the people and events that influenced his life. Exclusive extracts.

BOOKS 149

CONTENTS

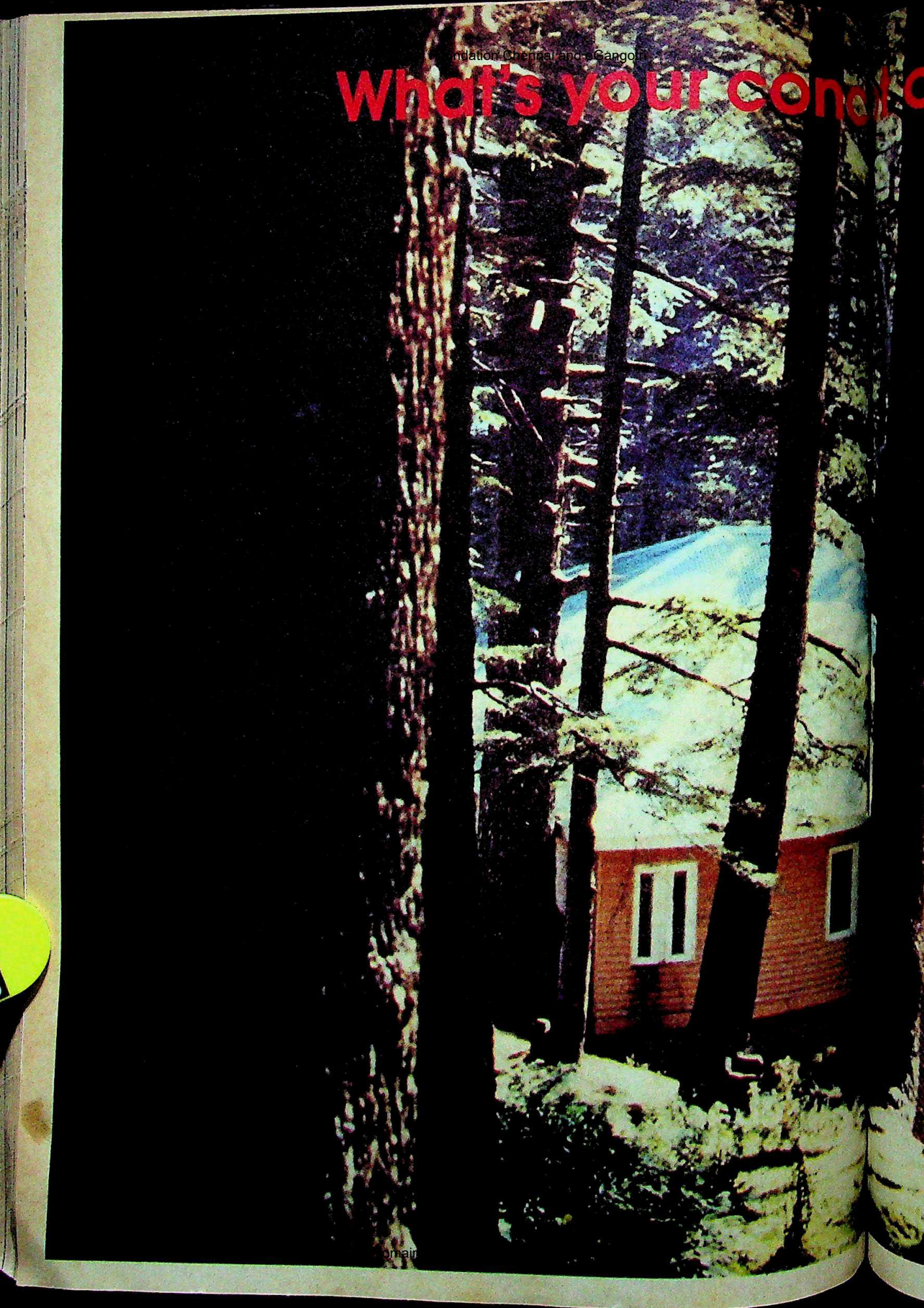
COMMENT 11
CAPITALOOK 14
VOICES 19
INDIANOTES 20
SPECIAL REPORTS
National Government: A Contrived Conspiracy 24
Punjab: The Malaise Deepens 32
CURRENT EVENTS
Mufti Mohammed Sayeed: In the Hot Seat 38
Delhi: In Limbo 44
Inside Eye: Tale of two Governors 49
West Bengal: Danger Signals 50
K.K. Tewary: Lip Service 50
Bottomline: PA Parleys 55
N.T. Rama Rao: In the Dock 56
Sign Posts 56
Jammu & Kashmir: Arrest Fiasco 61
Prostitutes: Sad Ending 63
INVESTIGATION
Mulayam Singh Yadav: The Company He Keeps 66
INTERVIEW OF THE FORTNIGHT
Jagmohan: "I saved Kashmir from a Tiananmen Square situation" 70
COVER STORY
Defence: Are We Prepared? 74
BUSINESS FEATURE
Beer Industry: Time for Cheer 86
TRADE WINDS 93
BUSINESS
Industrial Policy: Opening New Doors 95
Group-15 Summit: A Promising Start 99
Aromatics Plant: Complex War 105
India Meters Limited: Labour Pains 106
MTNL: Warning Ring 106
Essar: Pay Dirt? 111
The Markets: Bumpy Ride 112
THE ECONOMY MONITOR 117
LIFESTYLE
United Arab Emirates: Lure of the Lucre 118
GUEST COLUMN
The Kashmir Question 127
SPECIAL FEATURE
Madhya Pradesh: Waiting for Water 128
PHOTO ESSAY
Abdul Sattar Edhi: Pakistan's 'Father Teresa 132
GLOBE-TROTTING
Canada: Ethnic Enclave 141
GUEST COLUMN
Grass Without Roots: The Wages of Sin 142
EDUCATION
Platform Schools: On the Right Track 147
BOOKS
Vijay Amritraj: Courting Glory 149
EYE-CATCHERS 160

Cover photograph by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What's your condi



Domain

Digitized by Sarayu Foundation Trust

not of an ideal vacation?

Going to an overcrowded hill station, rubbing shoulders with the bustling people and queuing up for everything from bhelpuri to a pony ride.

OR

Having an exclusive mountain plateau all to yourself — its pine-shaded walks, its music of the whistling breeze and its poetry of natural splendour.

Patnitop. An enchanting plateau, 112 km from Jammu. **It's not just a stopover. It's quite the most beautiful hill resort in India.**

How to get there/

Patnitop is on the Jammu-Srinagar highway, just a three-hour drive away from Jammu, with regular and convenient bus connections from Jammu railway station and Katra. It also makes an easily accessible holiday destination for pilgrims to Mata Vaishno Deviji for a peaceful and relaxing holiday.

Where to stay/

Patnitop offers plenty of accommodation in well-appointed tourist huts, a tourist bungalow, a youth hostel and a fine hotel. Besides, J&K Tourism Development Corporation provides tented accommodation for an exciting outdoor stay.

For details contact:

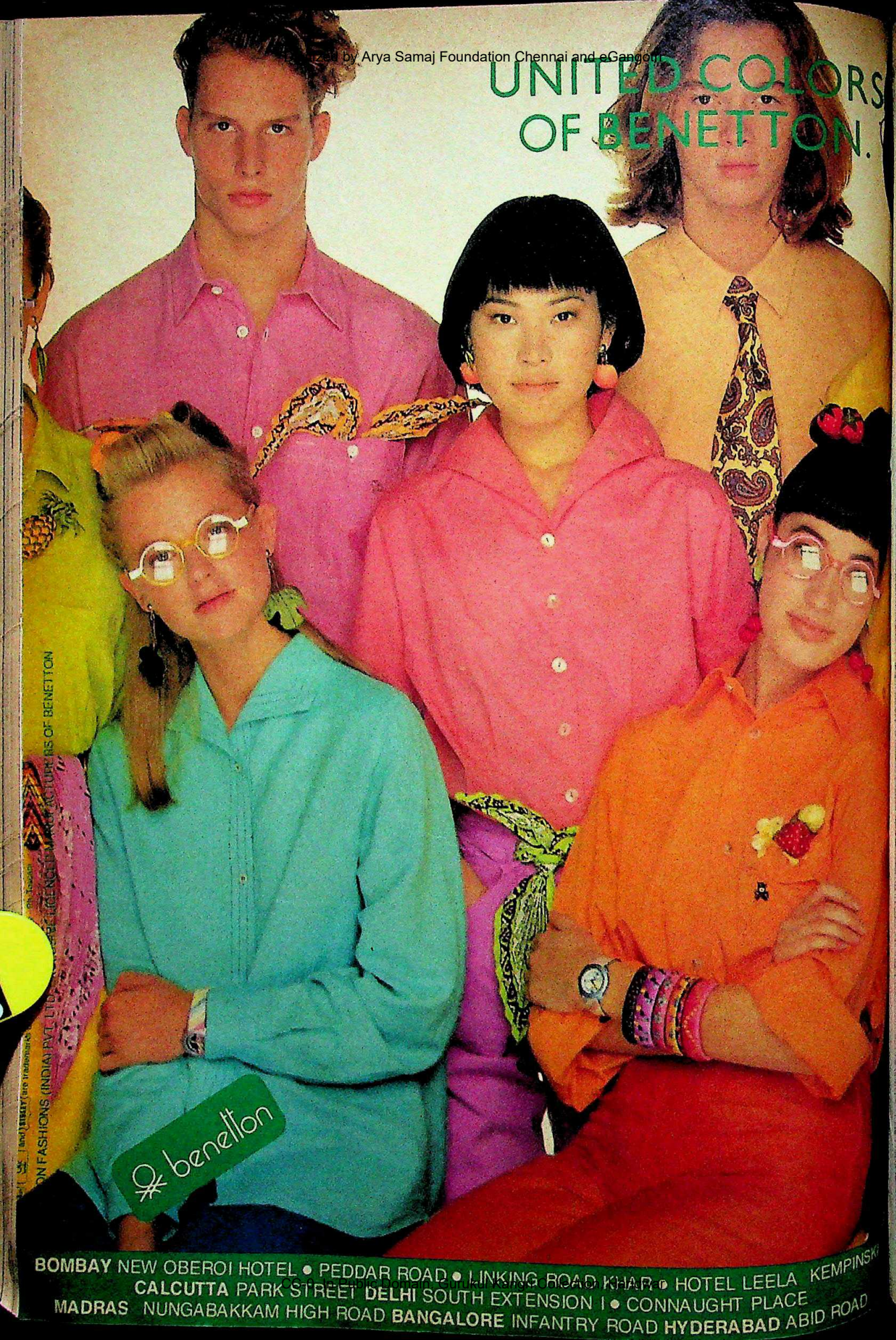
The Director of Tourism, J&K Government, Srinagar Tel: 73265, 72449, 73648, 77224 After office hours: 74068 Grams: JAKTOURISM Telex: 375-207 TSM IN or J&K Tourist Offices at: Ahmedabad: Tel: 391043, Bombay: Tel: 216249, Calcutta: Tel: 225790, Hyderabad: Tel: 60144, Jammu Tawi, Tel: 48172, 44527, Madras Tel: 562335, New Delhi: Tel. 3325373, 3324422 Extn. 2379

J&K TOURISM

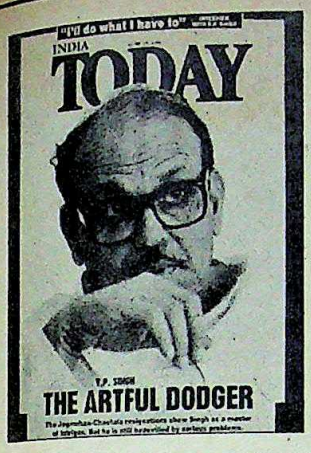
Patnitop

Peaceful • Exclusive • Unspoilt

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



MASTER MANIPULATOR

Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh has so far lived up to his reputation of being honest ("The Artful Dodger", June 15). However, to keep his image intact he will have to stick to his adopted policy of welcoming suggestions but not allowing himself to be dictated to by anyone.

Amritsar — K.J.S. AHLUWALIA

■ The V.P. Singh Government has not been able to tackle competently the major issues confronting the country. Bofors and price rise were the main issues during the general elections but now they are not as important.

Kanpur — R.G. MEHROTRA

SUDDEN SETBACK

The removal of Jagmohan as Jammu & Kashmir governor following the Mirwaiz funeral disaster ("Paying the Price", June 15) reveals that India is caught between the devil and the deep blue sea. With the appointment of Girish Chandra Saxena, one can only hope that the dangerous drift in the valley will soon stop.

Meerut — SHASHANK SHEKHAR

BRINK OF DISASTER

The cover story ("Playing with Fire", May 31) revealed Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's desperation in seeking a violent solution to the Kashmir problem. Though several world leaders have said that India and Pakistan should resolve their differences on the basis of the Simla Agreement, Pakistan doesn't seem to be agreeable to it. And Islamabad's intense lobbying with the Islamic countries to influence world opinion will only aggravate the situation.

Delhi — SANJIEVA SHANKHDHAR

■ Benazir Bhutto is trying to divert the attention of the Pakistani people from the several crises that her country is facing by harping on the 'liberation' of the Kashmiris from India and waging a 1,000-year war to achieve it. But if her rhetoric leads to a war between the two neighbours, it will prove to be a disaster for Pakistan.

Ahmedabad — A.P. THADHANI

■ It is Benazir Bhutto's political compulsions which have forced her to resort to India-baiting and exhorting her countrymen to prepare for Kashmir's 'liberation'. But by doing so, she has allowed fundamentalism in Pakistan to flourish, which could consume her government one day.

Vishakhapatnam — R.K. GAUTAM

■ Mushahid Hussain's comment about Pakistan appeasing India is far-fetched. It would be more appropriately applied to Pakistan, not India.

Singapore — TEJASWINI APTE

■ The Indians want the Pakistani Government to heed sane voices asking for a peaceful solution to the Kashmir problem. But voices of moderation in our country are dismissed as anti-national and pro-Pakistani.

Bombay — RESHMA SABIR

FETTERED FREEDOM

Giving partial autonomy to Doordarshan or allowing private companies to air programmes on the second channel of Doordarshan ("Theatre of the Absurd", May 31) is not enough. The Government should also think in terms of allowing setting up of private radio and television stations. The electronic media must be freed from the shackles of antiquated regulations.

Kerala — JAYAN JOSEPH K.

DISASTROUS DECISION

"Why Arif Weeps" (May 31) rightly hits the nail on the head. It's time we realised that Jinnah's two-nation theory has not done any good to Muslims either in India or Pakistan. During these 40 years of freedom, it has only helped the fundamentalists to grow and has created explosive situations in both the nations several times.

Tamil Nadu — S. RAMACHANDRAN

THE LAND QUESTION

"Burning Issue" (May 31) raises some very valid points about the rapid consumption of firewood for the purpose of cremation and the need to adopt fuel-saving methods. However, that is not the only area which warrants attention. Millions of acres of land all over the world are occupied when the dead are buried which can lead to an acute shortage of land for the living in a few years.

Rourkela — J.K. PANDA

A CRUMBLING CITADEL

After his party's defeat in the 1989 elections ("Crisis of Leadership", May 31), one expected that Rajiv Gandhi would finally disband his coterie. Instead, it continues to remain a part and parcel of the Congress(I).

Ahmedabad — SHALABH SAXENA

■ Rajiv Gandhi has lost popularity even among his own partymen. It is now time he gave place to another leader, at least for a temporary period of five years.

Madras — K.V RAJAGOPALAN

■ Coterie is a much-maligned word but it exists in every power structure. We are against no coterie and Rajiv Gandhi needs no liberation, least of all from R.K. Dhawan. It is unfortunate that some Congressmen have started speaking against the coterie. But they never hesitated to use it to further their political ends when the Congress(I) was in power. We are not against personalities but we certainly want that ad hocism in the party should end and party elections be held at the earliest.

New Delhi — DIGVIJAYA SINGH, *Ex-MP*

DEVILISH DISORDER

The irony about depression ("Spreading Scourge", May 31) is that

VOLUME XV NUMBER 12: FOR THE FORTNIGHT JUNE 16–30, 1990

● EDITORIAL OFFICE LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. F-14/15, CONNAUGHT PLACE NEW DELHI 110001. PHONE: 3315801-4, TELEX: 31-61245 INTO IN CABLE: LIVMEDIA. NEW DELHI ● SUBSCRIPTIONS: LIVING MEDIA INDIA LIMITED. POST BOX 706, FARIDABAD-121007, HARYANA ● TRADE CIRCULATION: INDIA TODAY CIRCULATION MANAGER, F-14 CONNAUGHT PLACE, MIDDLE CIRCLE, NEW DELHI. PHONE: 3313076-8, TELEX: 31-62634 INTO IN ● ADVERTISING OFFICES: 28 A&B JOLLY MAKER CHAMBERS II, NARIMAN POINT, BOMBAY-400021. PHONE: 2026152, 2029326, 2029435, TELEX: 11-85373 THOM IN, CABLE: LIVMEDIA, BOMBAY ● K-9, CONNAUGHT CIRCUS, NEW DELHI-110001. PHONES: 3325378, 3323576, 3321323 AND 3321273, TELEX: 31-62124 THOM IN, CABLE: LIVMEDIA, NEW DELHI ● FAGUN CHAMBERS, 26 COMMANDER-IN-CHIEF ROAD, MADRAS-600105, PHONE: 477188, 479163, CABLE: LIVMEDIA MADRAS ● 74/1 ST. MARKS ROAD, BANGALORE-560001, PHONE: 213037, 212448; CABLE: LIVMEDIA, BANGALORE ● 12C EVEREST 46C CHOWRINGEE ROAD, CALCUTTA-700016, PHONE: 445398, 447726, CABLE: LIVINMEDIA, CALCUTTA ● COPYRIGHT 1987 LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. REPRODUCTION IN ANY MANNER IS PROHIBITED. PUBLISHED BY AROON PURIE FOR LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD, NEW DELHI AND PRINTED AT THOMSON PRESS INDIA LTD, FARIDABAD HARYANA ● INDIA TODAY DOES NOT TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR RETURNING UNSOLICITED PUBLICATION MATERIAL ●

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Moving ? New Address ?

Don't miss out on your subscriber copies of *INDIA TODAY* — just because you've moved to a new address. Help us to reach your copy to you — without a break — by filling in the coupon below and sending it to us at least six weeks before you move.

Mail to :
Subscriber Service Cell
Living Media India Ltd.
P.O. Box 706
Faridabad 121 007

Non-Stop Delivery Coupon

My name: _____

_____
(Block letters)

My subscription no. _____

_____

My present address _____

_____

_____

_____ Pin: _____

My new address: _____

_____

_____

_____ Pin: _____

O&M/696

it goes not only untreated but also unrecognised. Often, even the patient himself doesn't know what is ailing him because depression is triggered by a disarray in biochemical tides that sweep his body.

Kachch — B.D. THACKER

■ The case of people with milder depressive conditions continues to remain largely undetected. A lot of these persons become victims of various physical illnesses which still defy any kind of diagnosis.

Uttar Pradesh — DR A.N. MEHROTRA

■ In a country with limited knowledge of the human psyche, scarce psychiatric help and scant awareness of depression, the feature came as a real eye-opener.

Orissa — SANJEEB KUMAR DAS

SEEKING SYMPATHY

To gain public sympathy, Amitabh Bachchan has been constantly complaining that the Government is victimising him ("Feeling the Heat", May 31). He must not take a legal battle into the political arena.

New Delhi — MAHESH KUMAR

PRICE RISE WOES

An increase of tax on cement, steel, coal and petroleum products ("High Anxiety", May 31) will obviously send the prices of all commodities skyrocketing. Unfortunately, the Government is being advised by a clutch of brilliant economists who tells it only what it wishes to hear.

New Delhi — MAJ. GEN. (Retd) P.C. KOCHHAR

LOSING PROPOSITION

The prospect of allowing international airlines to operate on domestic routes in India ("Encourage Liberalisation", May 31) is definitely advantageous for the traveller. But for an impoverished Indian Airlines, this will be equivalent to a death sentence.

Agra — DEEPAK P. AGARWAL

DEVIOUS DACOIT

It is a pity that the task of arresting Veerappan ("Elusive Bandit", May 31) was not entrusted to the army. Also, the plans and strategies to capture him received wide publicity in local newspapers with the result that he could remain at large.

Bangalore — SHARAD V. NADKARNI

TROUBLED TANGLE

To resolve the Cauvery waters dispute ("Trying Waters", May 31), the Supreme Court has rightly directed the Central Government to refer the matter to a tribunal.

Calcutta — T.V. SANJIT

■ The tribunal cannot provide a satisfactory solution for equitable water distribution as there are no guidelines for it. The matter should be decided by the Central Government.

Bangalore — R. ARUN KUMAR

■ The crucial final meeting between Tamil Nadu and Karnataka was cancelled by the Central Government. The Supreme Court verdict should have come only after this meeting.

Bangalore — M. SRINIVAS

BOOMING BUSINESS

Several big companies are setting up units in Malanpur ("Corporate Craze", May 15) primarily due to the single window nodal agency of the Madhya Pradesh Government. With its prompt handling of entrepreneurs' applications and attractive investment-generating methods, industry's future in the state is bright.

Madhya Pradesh — KRISHNADAS. E

YAWNING GAP

In spite of all the progress made by India ("Ballooning Growth", May 15), it still has to depend on other countries for the basic items required for many advanced technological products. A nation's economic strength depends largely on what it produces.

Uttar Pradesh — NIRMAL KUMAR

TAKEN FOR A RIDE

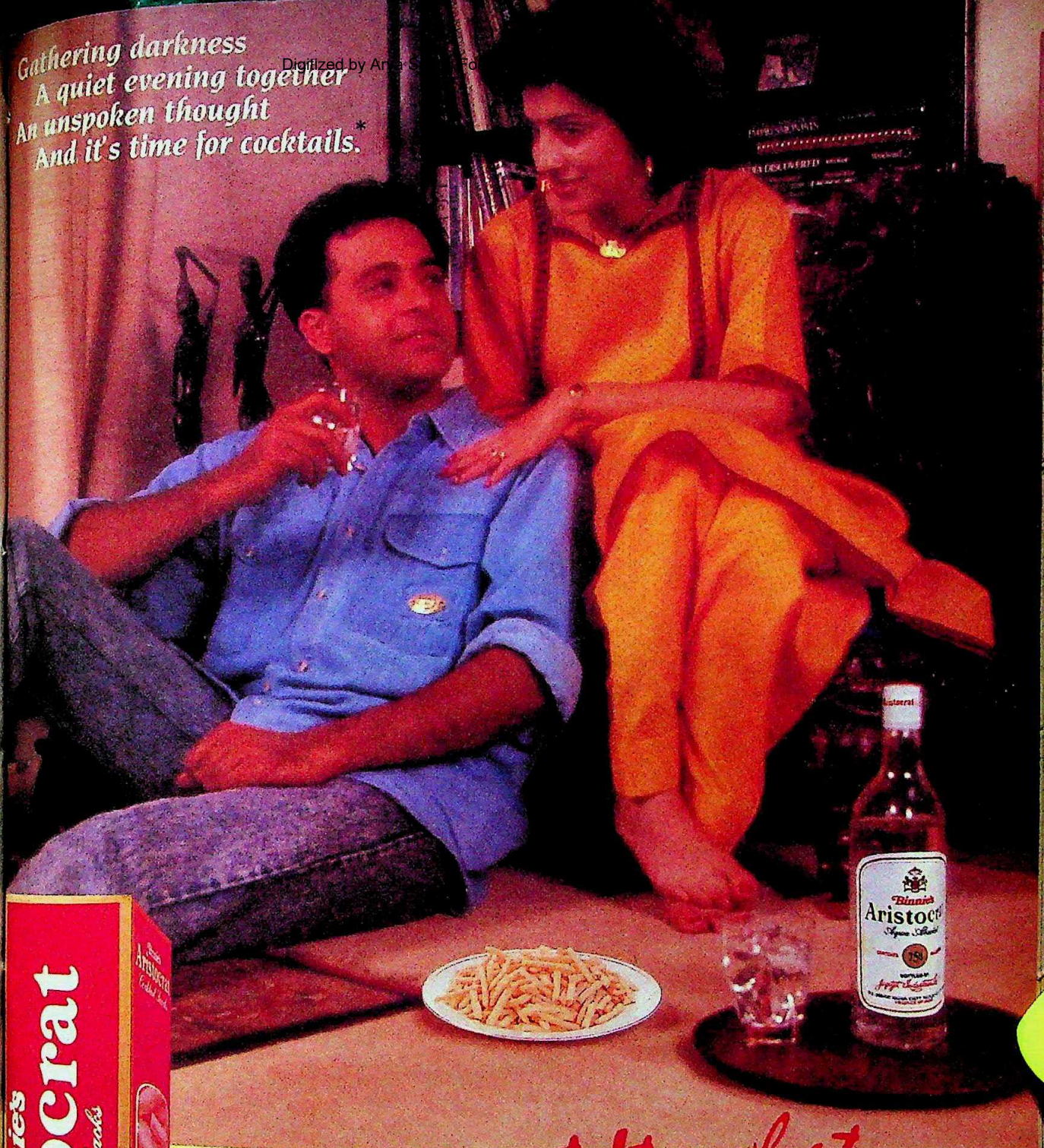
I purchased two units of the Kodaikanal Dalmia Resorts Vacation Owning Scheme in 1985 ("Wrong Time", October 15, 1989). But even after four-and-a-half years, work on the project has not started. The company is neither willing to give a satisfactory answer on its completion nor is it ready to refund my money with interest.

I also purchased a unit of the Goa project in 1985. Here too, the company is not honouring the purchase agreement and wants me to sign a fresh agreement. And since I have refused to do so, I have not been issued the DRI membership to which I am entitled.

Bombay — KEWAL KAPOOR

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Aristocrat. Its what the good life is all about.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

***Cocktail :** Preparation of food, esp. as appetizer ...*

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SEAL OF CONFIDENCE

ESTABLISHED 60 YEARS AGO

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

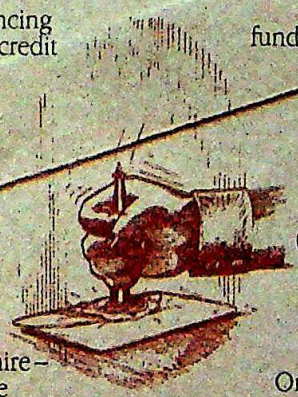
The story of The Instalment Supply Limited began in 1930.

Incorporated as a privately-held financing organisation, it offered hire – purchase credit to the unorganised sector—the small businessman—helping him in his new business endeavours.

Since then, well preserved business values, have helped The Instalment Supply Limited grow in size, services and turnover.

Establishing its reputation for stability, growth, returns and reliability, The Instalment Supply Limited today serves nationwide customers in hire – purchase, corporate-sector lease finance and fixed deposits.

The confidence reposed in the Company is evident in the long standing relationship with its bankers, financial institutions and by the increasing number of depositors.



The Instalment Supply Limited is one organisation that hasn't forgotten the old values of trust and reliability—the fundamentals of a Company committed to customer satisfaction.

Its steady growth and the cautious approach—to both, the raising of financial resources and their applications—have resulted in an FAA credit rating from CRISIL (Credit Rating Information Services of India Limited), guaranteeing high safety to its fixed depositors.

The Instalment Supply Limited.

On its diamond jubilee, this year, the increasing networth and unbroken dividend record over 6 decades, leave an indelible seal of confidence.

In the minds of investors, creditors and customers alike.

THE INSTALMENT SUPPLY LIMITED

46 Janpath, New Delhi-110 001.

HIRE-PURCHASE • LEASING • FIXED DEPOSITS

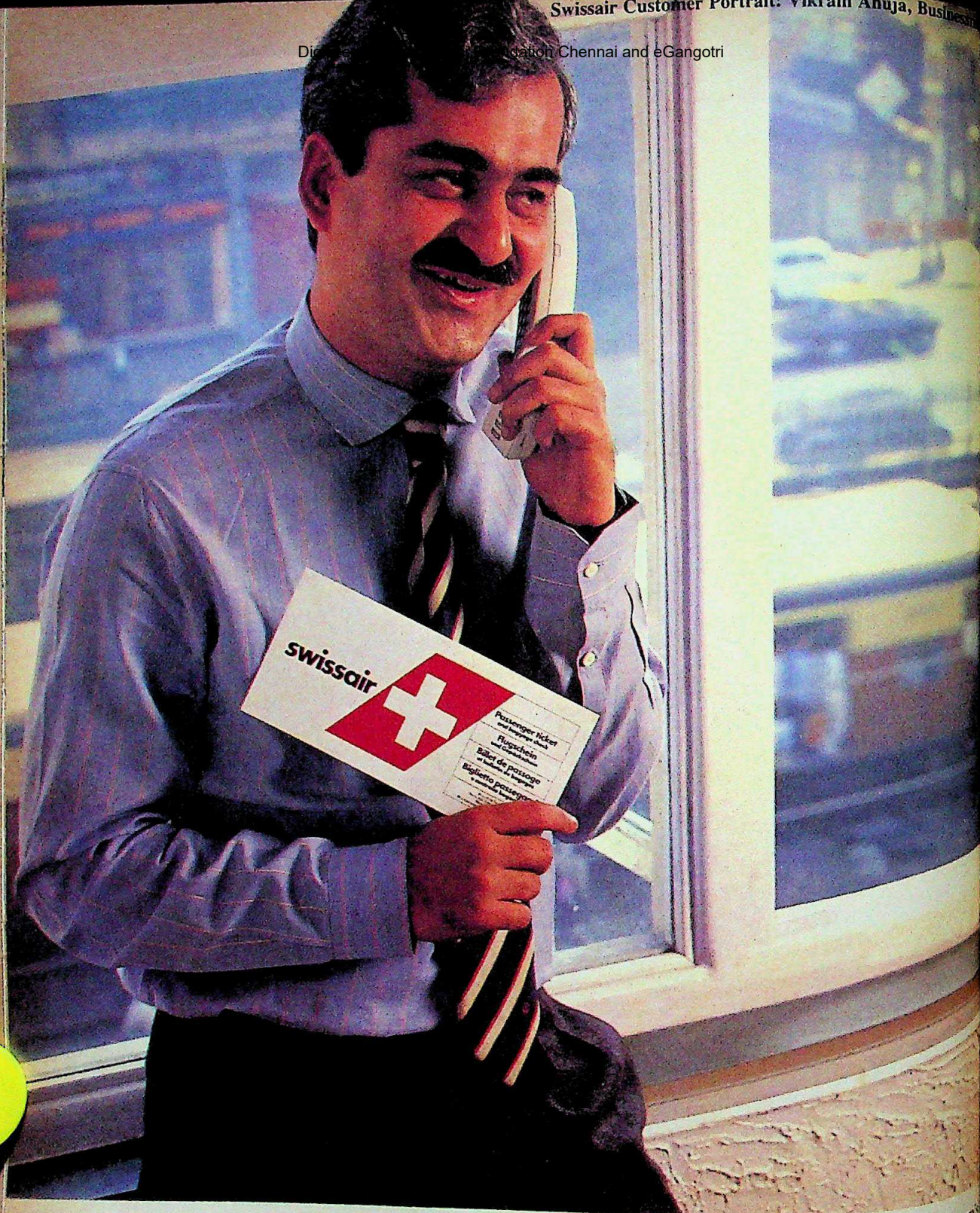
60 YEARS

MEGACORP/215/90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Swissair Customer Portrait: Vikram Ahuja, Business

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



The 1:35 fast local reminds Vikram Ahuja of a Swissair daily feature. The 1:35 Bombay-Zurich non-stop. On Vikram's business horizon, Swissair to Zurich non-stop is a regular sight. The arrival is in the early hours, in good time to catch our frequent and prompt connections to over fifty European business centres, six gateways to the U.S.A. and two to Canada. So everytime you wish to fly, you will welcome Swissair's hospitality, punctuality and service. All of which you can enjoy just the way Vikram does. With your eyes shut.

For details call your IATA travel agent or the nearest Swissair office:
AHMEDABAD 449149 • BANGALORE 211983 • BOMBAY 2021210 • CALCUTTA 244043 • COCHIN 360380 • DELHI 3325511 • HYDERABAD 211144 • KATHMANDU 222452 • MADRAS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

everest SC 5

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Dare to be Free

PRIME Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh is earnest in proclaiming that the economic policies of his government are clear, practical and hard-headed. They are not. They suffer from an old ailment: liberal schizophrenia. An incentive here, a new control there, and zigzags everywhere. Liberals just cannot let go of the notion that when it comes to managing economic activity, Big Government knows best. And this, although some of the powerful politicians and advisers who surround Singh—himself an acknowledged liberal—are non-socialist thinkers.

They readily subscribe to the dirge of collectivism. They admit that controls not only breed massive corruption but also snuff out the creative energies and, indeed, the future wealth of nations. They acknowledge that the "contradictions of capitalism" and "surplus value" are just so many slogans to perpetuate strangulating statism. That ultimately, as the world experience has shown, the paths to real wealth and the alleviation of poverty are risk-taking, and adventure.

But when it comes to action they are hopelessly tied down by the familiar and comfortable staleness of the past. And the excuses for not letting go multiply. The one in vogue right now is the runaway deficit. And deficits, they say, demand management, which means controls, regulations and higher taxes.

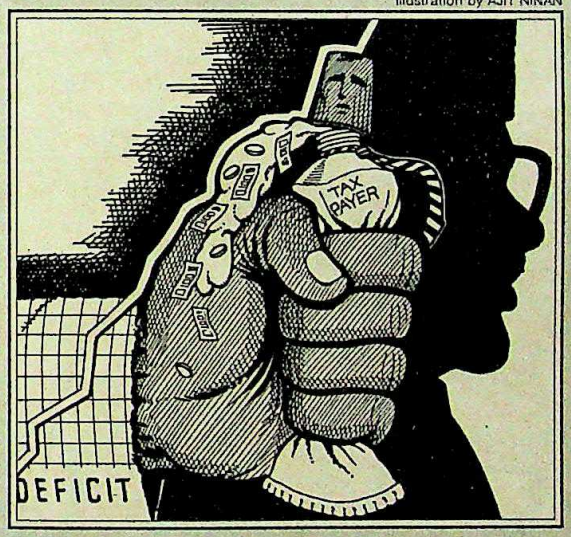
Again, history has shown that this may not be the case. Japan's greatest economic advancement, starting in the '60s, was concurrent with what the economic pundits labelled deficit disasters. The country financed its deficits through tax policies encouraging savings and investments. The savings rate in Japan grew from 16 per cent to 23 per cent, and productivity set new records amidst continuous tax cuts (In the early '80s the average individual tax was 20 per cent.) The deficits were neutralised by fresh public savings and investments.

The old-fashioned tendency is to panic into higher tax rates. But this macro-economic manipulation simply enlarges the role of the state which is often the main culprit responsible for the deficits and the fiscal fiascos. Worse, by dampening investment it slows down the growth of production. If V.P. Singh and his team are really interested in curbing wasteful, non-productive expenditures to control the deficit, they should start with the public sector.

A recent study of 174 public sector projects, reported to Parliament, revealed that each overshot its original estimate by more than 74 per cent. Economists calculated the drain on the country's resources at over Rs 40,000 crore.

As a cost-conscious man, as an enemy of waste, fraud, and mismanagement, the prime minister cannot afford to ignore—and the words are chosen very carefully—*the economic crimes* perpetrated on this nation by its government in the name of socialism. Every third rupee spent in the country—about Rs 100,000 crore a year—comes out of the coffers of some government department. And about Rs 20,000 crore a year or every fifth rupee spent goes waste. That's Rs 4 lakh wasted every minute. And these figures come not from some anti-government, capitalist think-tank, but from senior civil servants and heads of public sector organisations.

Illustration by AJIT NINAN



SOME of the initiatives of the new Government, particularly in industrial policy, are commendable. The removal of stifling controls on the small sector, the incentives to agro-industries, and the opening up of tourism to increased foreign investment are steps in the right direction. But the problems remain. The Government is still sitting in the hotel business. The waiter-as-bureaucrat is the ultimate symbol of the Government's tyranny in the market-place.

The state trading agencies—those behemoths of export and import canalisation—still monopolise, stifle, and mismanage international trade in items ranging from newsprint to manganese and make hefty commissions off the backs of importers and exporters. In the hands of the Government, the State Trading Corporation and the Minerals and Metals Trading Corporation are powerful vehicles for political control. It would demand a government with guts and vision to relinquish it in the national interest.

What the Government gives with one hand it takes away with the other—the long arm of taxation. The Government taxes income, it taxes savings, it taxes investments, and it taxes expenditures. In India's tax culture, there should be very little or no disposable income. Yet people are buying consumer goods, houses, smuggled goods even when the savings rate is more or less stagnant. This suggests that there's a huge parallel economy of unaccounted money that is running the economy in cahoots with the robber barons of the public sector.

There's an old adage: if you want less of something tax it, if more subsidise it. The Government is subsidising an inefficient and wasteful public sector—and thereby the deficit—while taxing enterprise and savings. Also by taxing "luxury" items like ice-cream that are now increasingly within reach of the lower economic classes, the Government is in effect creating luxury items by once again putting them within reach only of the richer elites.

Political power continues to grow out of the barrels of government controls.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"Have you driven
a Hero Panther
or a Hero Pacer...
recently?"

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The winds of change usher in a new movement at Majestic Auto. New technologies. New ideas. For exciting new products.

The Hero Panther, specially fitted with extra-large wheels, is a boon to rural tradesmen, who have bought over 60,000 Panthers in just two years.

The Hero Pacer, a small wheeled version, has proved to be the perfect option for 40,000 urban commuters.

For the youth market, our latest addition is the sleek, lightweight Hero Ankur. Results in test markets will prove this another sell-out.

Our reasonable prices (about Rs. 1000/- less than the nearest competitor!) and new instalment schemes (like "SBI's SCHOOM") have worked wonders.

But the real reason for our success, is the Seal of Quality borne by every product of the Hero group, be it Hero Honda motorcycles, Hero Puch minibikes or Hero cycles.

The new Hero mopeds bear this Seal of Quality too and are second to none in this range. Which is what gives us the confidence to make a promise.

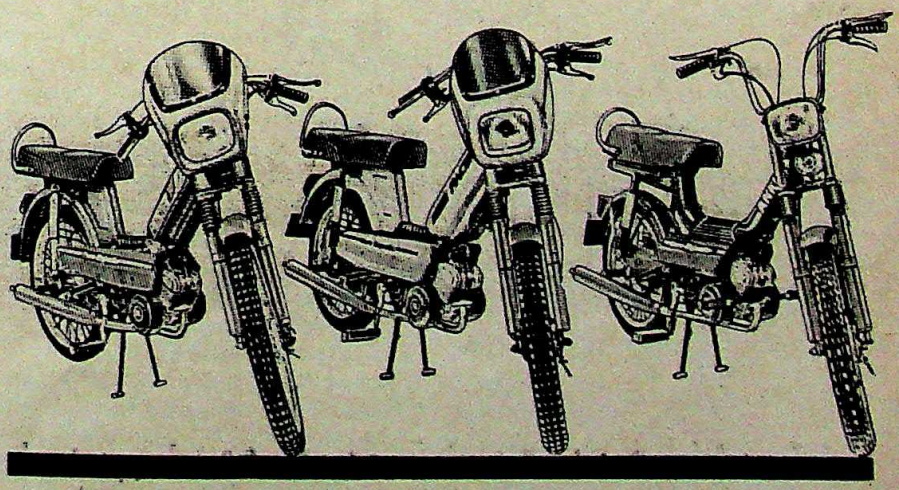
We will ensure free service for any Hero moped upto one year from purchase. During this period any component with manufacturing defects will be replaced FREE of cost and no labour charges will be levied.

If you already own a Hero moped, you can test this promise at anyone of our 300 dealers.

If you intend to buy a new moped, check the Hero Seal of Quality yourself. Test ride a Hero moped, today!

If you are still not satisfied, write to me. I will ensure that our promise is kept.

O.P. Munjal
Chairman, Majestic Auto Ltd.
C-48, Focal Point
Ludhiana 141 010



Panther, Pacer & Ankur

Mopeds by Hero Majestic.

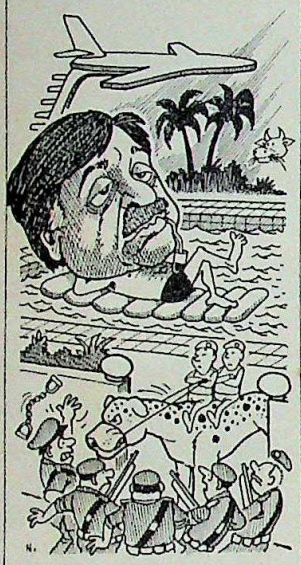
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Insecure Moments

● Satish Sharma is a much harried man these days. He feels unsafe even within the protective walls of his farmhouse outside Delhi.

One of the reasons is that



recently some 40 policemen from Uttar Pradesh attempted to enter his farmhouse and arrest him on charges of being part of the conspiracy that led to the attack on Sanjay Singh during the Amethi election.

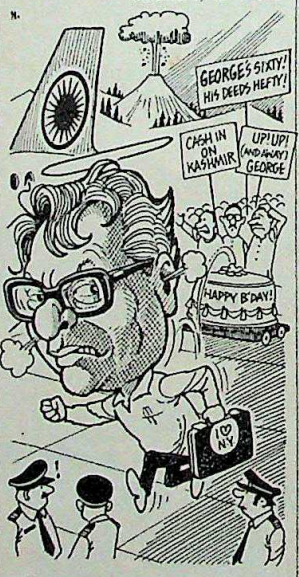
Sharma has so far not been arrested as the courts have stayed the order on a writ petition from him arguing that the Uttar Pradesh Government's action is an act of vindictive harassment intended to punish the former pilot for his closeness to Rajiv Gandhi. Sharma's name didn't figure in any of the early official complaints (FIRs) lodged with the police.

His friends see in the new development the hand of Sanjay Singh, who upon his return from England has been doing some effective string-pulling from Lucknow because of his closeness to the prime minister. Incidentally, what kept the policemen from entering the farm wasn't any electronic gadgetry but two unarmed but determined Gorkha guards and a huge Great Dane, the likes of which the denizens of Uttar Pradesh had never seen before.

Miffed Maverick

● Railway Minister George Fernandes could scarcely hide his wrath at being divested of his Kashmir affairs portfolio. On June 3, his 60th birthday, partymen from Bihar and Uttar Pradesh had planned a big bash to honour their youthful-looking maverick. But Fernandes was in no mood to be feted. To show his displeasure, he flew off, literally, in a huff for New York, cancelling all appointments. He disappointed his loyalists who had printed elaborate posters to felicitate him. And confused the officials comprising his Kashmir think-tank in New Delhi. In his hurry to cut loose from the scene, he didn't even have time to brief the bureaucrats on whether

Cartoons by AJIT NINAN



to disband or continue as a rudderless group.

Missive Missile

● The Information and Broadcasting Minister, P. Upendra, is still reeling under the impact of a missive from the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC). The

minister had asked the UPSC to suggest new names for the post of director-general of Doordarshan, now occupied by Shiv Sharma. In response, he recieved an angry note questioning his motives. The UPSC big babus also insisted on a clarification on why it'd taken so long to confirm Sharma after his ad hoc appointment.

The supercrats also asked the ministry to justify in writing any proposed high-level change. This will not be easy because the unstated reason behind moving Sharma out is that he is too closely associated with the Rajiv regime and has been a spanner in the works of the new Government's plans to restructure Doordarshan.

● As the saying goes, governments may come and go but the bureaucracy...

Neo Intellectual

● Enter Rajiv Gandhi, the neo-intellectual. Now, the ex-prime minister has never enjoyed a reputation for historical perspective or, for that matter, his deterministic prophesy. But in his present avatar as opposition leader he is now attempting to cross swords with the best of the eggheads in the land.

Witness, for example, his utterance at a recent party convention against communalism. First, in the style of his cerebral grandfather, Jawaharlal Nehru, he dwelled on the diversity of religious influences in India. Next came a startling prognostication: following the international set-back for the socialist bloc the inevitable confrontation would now be

between Christian capitalism and Islamic forces.

During the lunch recess Congressmen gloated over their leader's newly acquired knowledge. Reporters, however, speculated about the invisible hand of the speech-writer. But one of Rajiv's cronies insisted: "He spoke well because there was no middleman." Try Nostradamus.

TAIL PIECE

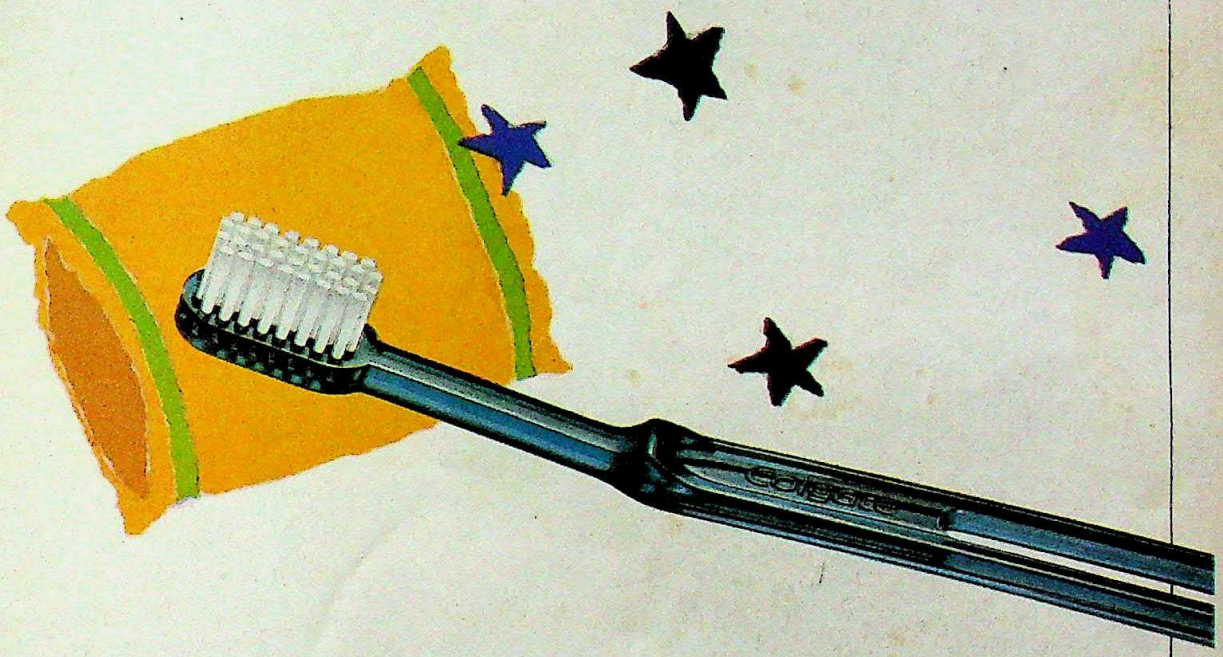
(Overheard)

Recently in Sisauli, M.S. Tikait pledged: "We will get Devi Lal to unfurl the national flag on Independence Day." Ad-libbed an observer: "Presumably the Long March from Tikaitistan to the Delhi Durbar will be led by Comrade Tau-Tse-Tung."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Sweet Dreams!



NEW *Colgate* FORWARD ANGLE
With compact head for better reach

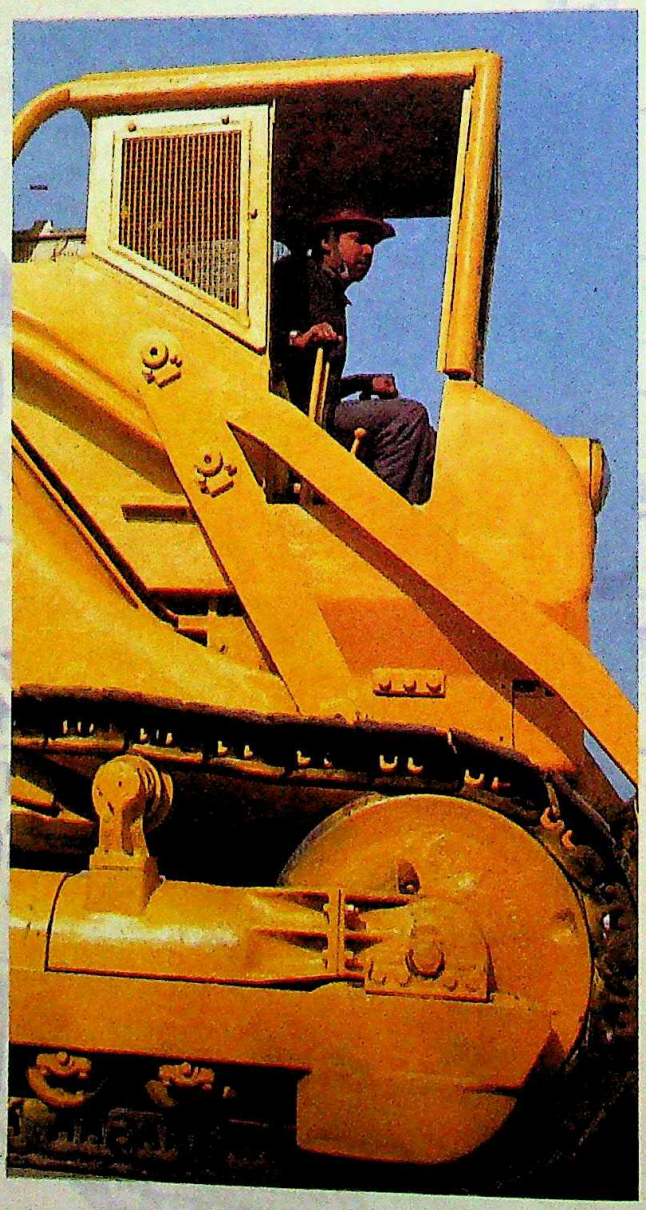
Smile! You've got the Colgate Forward Angle on your side! A unique compact head for mobility, an angled neck for better reach and firm yet soft bristles make Forward Angle a real pleasure to brush with!

Rediffusion/CP/90/173

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ONE OF THE WORLD'S FINEST TECHNOLOGY TRANSFERS IS TAKING PLACE....



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JINDAL
TECHNOLOGY
MISSION

FROM HISAR TO RAIGARH.

The first is the technology source. The second, the site of India's first fully indigenous Sponge iron plant in Madhya Pradesh. And effecting this transfer is Jindal. With technology perfected at its 15000 tpa test plant at Hisar, running successfully for the last one year. Technology made in India. To suit Indian conditions. To work on abundantly available Indian raw materials. And on equipment manufactured indigenously by Jindal. To make Sponge iron in 6 kilns of 1 lac tpa capacity each. The plant will also produce Pig iron, Hot Rolled coils and Ferro-chrome.

This in-house technology and equipment has lowered the project cost to only Rs.153 crores, almost one fifth the cost of similar projects. Effecting a foreign exchange saving of Rs.200 crores on technology and equipment. And recurring foreign exchange saving of Rs.250 crores per annum by manufacturing import-substitution products qualitatively at par with the world's best.

The plant will even generate wealth from waste – 45 MVA of captive power by recycling waste hot gases.

The Raigarh project. A reflection of Jindal's commitment towards developing India's technological base. A process that has raised Jindal to a Rs.600 crore group. And, is now converting little known places into landmarks.

JINDAL
WORLD-CLASS STEEL. MADE IN INDIA.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Mudra:D:JSL:0099

Some possessions define a character.
Some distinguish it.

Chancellor
Exclusive Filters

A cigarette so distinguished,
it's by appointment to your majesty.

Govan ChB/1.88

STATUTORY WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

• *The Indian defence budget is not made in Delhi but in Islamabad.*

■ V.P. SINGH in *Asiaweek*

• *This House reprimands you (for committing contempt) and a more severe penalty is not administered only in the hope that through introspection you would realise the seriousness of your misdemeanour.*

■ NAJMA HEPTULLA, deputy chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, to K.K. Tewary

• *I am often pleasantly surprised to discover striking parallelisms between some of the things I say and Panditji's own earlier thoughts on the subject.*

■ RAJIV GANDHI in *The Times of India*

• *Arun Shourie is not a journalist. He is a terrorist. Intimidation is his aim and lies are his bullets.*

■ M.J. AKBAR

• *For us, Devi Lal is the prime minister.*

■ MAHENDRA SINGH TIKAIT, Bharatiya Kisan Union president

• *If S.R. Bommai were to ask me to jump from the roof of a 24-floor building, I would do it.*

■ OM PRAKASH CHAUTALA in *The Sunday Observer*

• *Rajiv Gandhi's asking for Chautala's resignation is like the devil quoting the Bible.*

■ S.R. BOMMAI, Janata Dal president, in *Sunday*

• *I retrieved Kashmir from Pakistan.*

■ JAGMOHAN in his maiden speech in the Rajya Sabha

• *Have I ever said that I have been a principled politician?*

■ CHANDRA SHEKHAR in *Probe India*

• *If Maneka Gandhi can have pet dogs, why can't Naseer have a pet bear?*

■ ABDUL LATIF, a monkey owner, on the confiscation of Munna, a bear, by the Government

• *I think any sensitive person who looks around himself or herself is bound to have what is known as leftist leanings.*

■ SHABANA AZMI in *Newstrack*

• *Actors are broken-up people inside. That's why you find a lot of us landing up with psychiatrists.*

■ AMITABH BACHCHAN in *Stardust*

• *I was being taken as some bloody charitable institution.*

■ KIMI KATKAR in *Cine Biltz*

INDIA TODAY
INTERNATIONAL EDITION

GIFT INDIA TO SOMEONE YOU CARE FOR...

GIFT FOR _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
CITY _____ CODE _____
COUNTRY _____

Please send one year's subscription of *INDIA TODAY*, International Edition and my gift card to the person named above. Enclosed is my cheque*/DD*/(add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques, ie. outside Delhi) for Rs._____

payable to Living Media India Ltd.

MY NAME _____
ADDRESS _____
_____
_____

Send this advertisement and payment to:
Living Media India Ltd.
P.B. No. 706,
Faridabad 121 007

Annual Airmail Subscription Rates

Rs. 365 BANGLADESH, BHUTAN, NEPAL

Rs. 850 ALL OTHER COUNTRIES

*Cheques/Bank Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

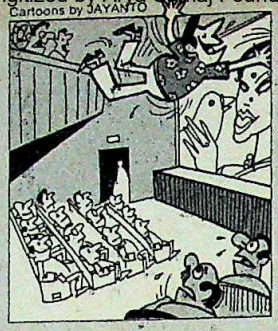
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Cartoons by JAYANTO

FLIGHT OF FANCY

■ If somebody were to tell you about a flying man you'd probably ask them to tell it to the birds. But recently a man in Madhya Pradesh's Khandwa town literally flew into a passion watching the *Maine Pyar Kiya* love-birds coo on screen.



Sitting in the balcony of the cinema hall, this enthusiastic cine-watcher was really stirred when the *kabootar ja ja* number began to play. Imagining himself to be a bird soaring in the skies, he began flailing his arms wildly in the air.

However, his little flight of fancy lasted only the distance from the railing of the balcony to the floor of the hall where he landed soon with a loud thud. And for his aviatory effort, the gent suffered broken bones in both his feet.

The upshot of all this was that the movie had to be put on hold until an ambulance came and carted away the injured man to the nearest hospital.

MANDAP MIX-UP

■ Marriages, it is said, are made in heaven. But for these two couples in Patan village, marriages seem to be unmade on earth. It all happened when two separate *baraat* parties arrived at the same *mandap* to get married at the same time. Since the bridegrooms were in a tearing hurry to tie the knot, the ceremonies were performed in record time.

After the two couples had taken the necessary walk around the sacred fire it was time for the customary unveiling of the brides. This proved a real eye-opener. The brides had been swapped. The mix-up occurred because the long

veils worn by the two brides obscured their faces.

Even though the brides were horrified at the exchange, relatives insisted that what was done could not be undone. So now, for better or for worse, the couples have to stick it out till death do them part. Inscrutable are the ways of the Lord.

ELUSIVE VICTIM

■ The deafening shriek of a police siren normally makes criminals scurry for cover. So, recently when the Bombay police arrived at a shop where four men had robbed a shopkeeper of Rs 10,000 and a wristwatch, predictably the robbers immediately fled from

the scene. However, with the hard-nosed city police close on their heels, it wasn't long before they were nabbed and put behind bars.

So, what's so unusual about this? Nothing, except that in this case it wasn't the criminals but the victim who eluded the danda-wielding police. When the policemen went back to the shop to return the stolen money, they were surprised to find the place completely deserted. It seemed like the shopkeeper had suddenly vanished into thin air.

Not quite though. He was later traced by the police to his native village where he had apparently fled out of fear.

BOLD BRIDE

■ The traditionally shy and coy Indian bride seems to be fast becoming an endangered species. Particularly if you were to go by the case of this spunky Bombay girl whose spineless lover couldn't stand up to his parents.

Even though he was in love with her, he finally ended up at the altar with a girl chosen by mama. However, just when it was time to exchange garlands, the jilted girl—who may have been down but was definitely not out—decided to literally take matters in her own hands.

Standing behind the couple, she grabbed the garland from right out of the bejewelled bride's hands and tossed it around the groom's neck even before he could say "I do".

Marriage today, obviously is rapidly becoming a simple matter of seizing the moment.

CLOSE SHAVE

■ In these days of identity crises, security blankets seem to be the norm. But for Devakaran, a poor farmer of Keezahayikkonam, Kerala, his lush moustache was more than that. It was also his claim to fame.

But recently in a close

shave with a local sub-inspector of police he was deprived of his pride and joy for some time to come. The policeman decreed that such a flamboyant moustache did not behove a mere peasant. So, poor Devakaran had no choice but to shave it off. Consequently, decades long growing and pruning fell to the ground. And with it crumbled Devakaran's stiff upper lip.

Masked in gloom the clean shaven Devakaran now sneaks around dark corners afraid to be espied. So great, apparently, is his self-loathing that he cannot even bear to look at his own reflection.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

An elite band of NRIs is meeting in New Delhi for a great 'joint venture'...

Announcing

The 3rd Gulf NRI Seminar New Delhi

'India and NRIs - Visions of a Shared Future'

July 4-6, 1990
Venue: Taj Palace Hotel, New Delhi

An elite group of Gulf NRIs will be attending: successful professionals and businessmen, from banking, insurance, shipping, medicine, engineering, education, universities and other key areas.

The Seminar will also draw senior officials in Government, experts in investment, educationists and technocrats.

The Seminar will provide an opportunity to discuss issues related to FERA, Taxation, Bank and Portfolio Investments, Project Investments, Education and other NRI resettlement subjects.

For registration forms and more programme details, write to:

India

Abhay K Mehta
Chairman
3rd Gulf NRI Seminar Committee
c/o Tara Sinha Associates
V-15, Green Park Extension
New Delhi 110 016
Tlx No : 31-73209 TSA IN
Tel No : 652754/652661

Overseas

C S S Khanpuri
Chairman
NRI Investors Forum, Kuwait
c/o Embassy of India, P.O. Box 1450
Safat, Kuwait
Tlx No : 44627 KIESBI KT
Tel No : 24322324

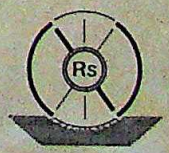
Registration Fee: Rs 1500/- per delegate. (Covers the 3-day seminar, lunches, tea/coffee and conference materials).

Special concessional rates available for hotel accommodation and travel, if required.

Last day for registration-25th June.

"India and NRIs-Visions of a shared future"
3RD GULF NRI SEMINAR
NEW DELHI

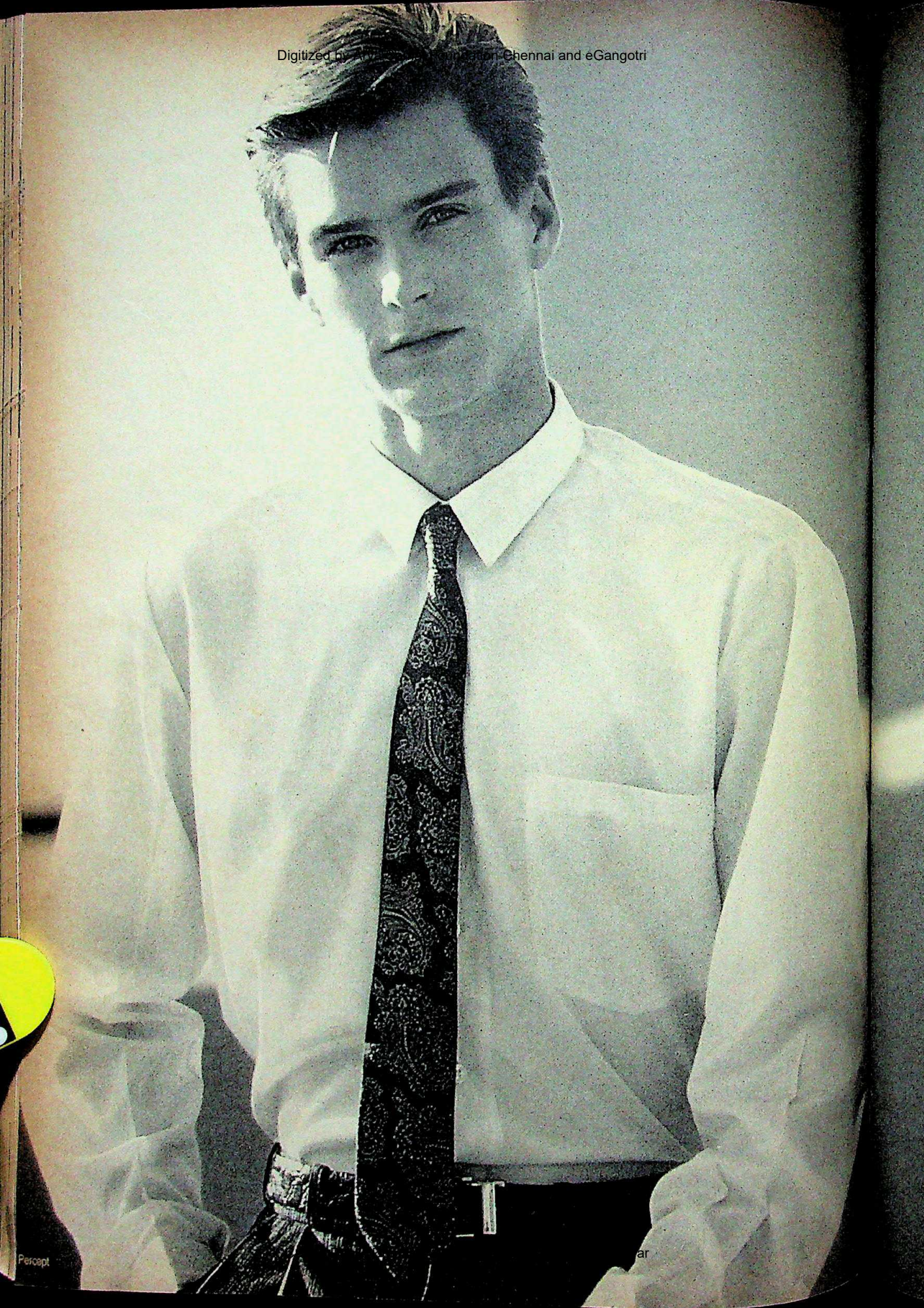
TSA-D/NRI/190



Hosted by
NRI INVESTORS FORUM, KUWAIT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

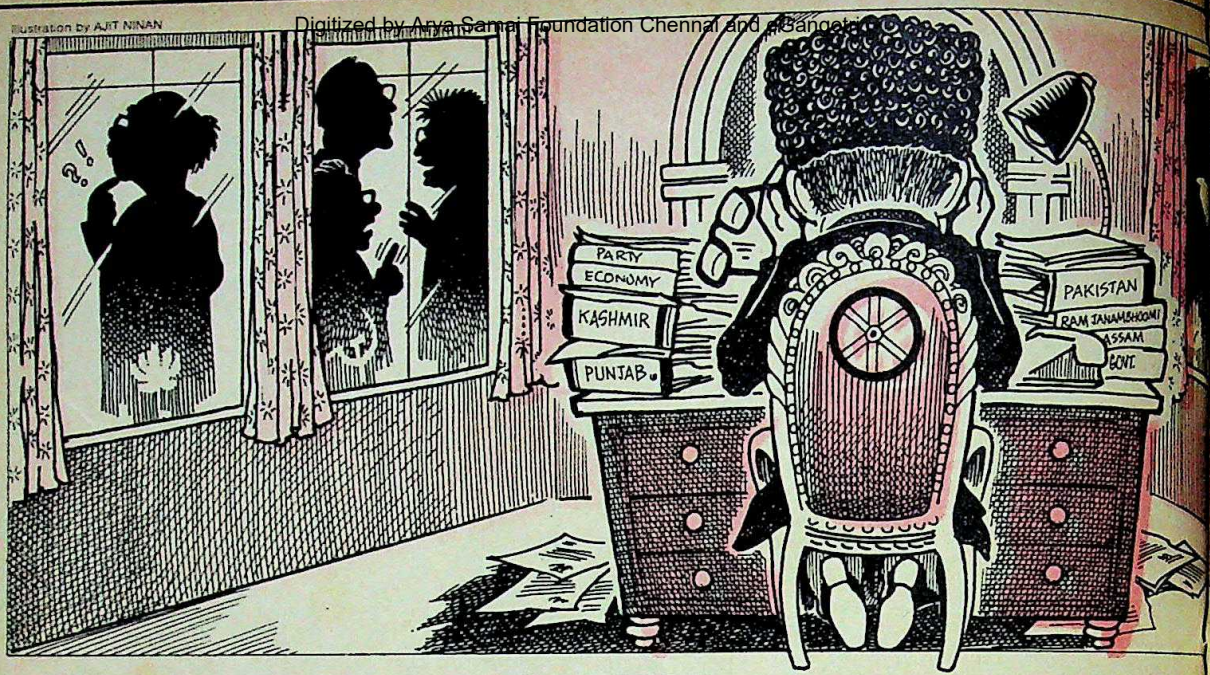


Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PRESENTING
THE
POWER
LOOK
PREMIUM
SHIRTINGS
Siyaram's®

® Regd. Trade Mark of Siyaram Silk Mills Ltd., Bombay-11.

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



NATIONAL POLITICS

Wrecking Games

The 'national government' conspiracy and intrigue fail to dent Vishwanath Pratap Singh, as the Left and the BJP stand by him.

MATE insecurity with insecurity in the incestuous world of politics and you strengthen politics' most recessive gene—conspiracy. The plots, counter-plots, and brinkmanship that have bedevilled Vishwanath Pratap Singh's six-month-old Government took a momentous turn last fortnight, again heightening speculation about the possible collapse of the minority Government.

Just about everybody, it seemed, was talking to everybody else. The bedfellows were growing stranger and stranger. And in the web of intrigues they had begun to weave, all sorts of names were popping up for the prime ministership—all in the name of 'issue-based' politics, that tired euphemism for skilful manoeuvring.

The prime minister himself made a stark acknowledgement of these developments when he dropped a bombshell on his return flight from Malaysia: he told reporters he was willing to step down in the interests of a national consensus. Said Singh in typical style: "The heavens will not fall if V.P. Singh is removed." And he quickly added a value base: he, too, could manoeuvre to keep himself in power but "if this government gets involved only in trying to save itself, it will not be able to save the nation".

The first reaction came from the CPI(M) which lambasted Singh for talking about a national government which is possible only in the face of an external aggression or some such crisis, and urged him to carry on with the hard business of governing. The CPI has said as much, but in more guarded tones. The conspirators within his own Janata Dal also maintained in private that Singh should not have spoken out as he gives the impression of abdicating responsibility. And at least on the record the Congress(I) dismissed the idea. The BJP preferred to reserve comment, probably satisfied that Singh had included it in his own framework of a national government.

In using a diamond to cut a diamond, Singh may have achieved the desired result of forcing the co-conspirators to publicly denounce the national government idea. But implicit in Singh's statement is the recognition that conspiracies against his government—with some of his own colleagues participating—are a growing threat. There is little doubt that even some of his oldest allies, of the erstwhile Jan Morcha, are upset with his style of functioning and are talking to his enemies, not perhaps to topple him, but to send a warning signal.

As one influential Jan Morcha-ite, a member of Singh's Government, said: "Singh is interested only in the past. He, Vinod Pande and Bhure Lal are huddled in secret conclaves filing FIRs against all and sundry. Many of us have told him to let the past be, to look into the future, to decide on Kashmir, Punjab, Assam. Tamil Nadu too is hotting up but his priorities appear to lie elsewhere."

Significantly, while there was virtually no contact between the Congress(I) and Janata Dal leaders, the last two weeks have been full of meetings between members of the opposing political parties. Under one proposal backed by Rajiv Gandhi, with R.K. Dhawan and M.J. Akbar doing the spadework, Chandra Shekhar would be acceptable as prime minister in a national government. Interestingly, disgruntled Congress(I) members are backing this

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

move in the hope that it'll see both Rajiv and V.P. Singh out of power. Of course, in Dhawan and Akbar's estimation, Chandra Shekhar is merely a stopgap arrangement to get Rajiv Gandhi back into power. The plot calls for winning over Devi Lal (after the removal of his son Om Prakash Chautala from the Haryana chief ministership Devi Lal has become a bitter V.P. Singh critic), Ajit Singh, George Fernandes and a few Jan Morcha-ites.

In the words of an influential leader of the party, Congress(I) members are motivated by the idea of sitting "where the BJP is sitting today". To call the shots with Chandra Shekhar in the prime minister's chair and Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav in the home minister's. Yadav, according to a Congress(I) assessment, is not unwilling provided the new product continues to carry the 'national front' label and not that of the Congress(I).

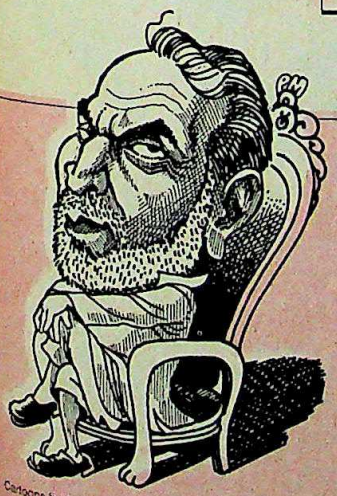
To ensure that persons like Yadav do not feel uncomfortable, the Congress(I) leaders behind this proposal make it clear that the party will support the Chandra Shekhar government from outside. This would help it elicit the support of leaders with similar reservations. More important, by merely extending support, it can take credit for the commissions and criticise the ruling party for the omissions.

In this scenario, Devi Lal is the classic *agent provocateur* whose sole aim is to render things as uncomfortable as possible for V.P. Singh. Interestingly, those involved in the talks do not visualise a major role for the deputy prime minister in any new combination. Devi Lal appears to be propelled by his anti-Singh sentiment and the hope of reinstating his family in Haryana.

For this gameplan, it was necessary to win over the Left. This proved a stumbling block as the CPI(M) refused to bite the ideological carrot—'isolation of the BJP'—that was proffered. Its members, the only ones to speak on the record, have declared the proposal preposterous, more so because it has originated from the Congress(I), a "party we cannot trust". Saifuddin Choudhary, CPI(M) MP, points out: "If the Congress(I) is so interested in isolating the BJP, why doesn't it support the National Front Government? The question of secularism is bigger than the personality of the prime minister." Prakash Karat in the CPI(M) central office says: "Those interested in destabilising the Government are artificially creating an environment of instability."

There is a second proposal which appears to have been floated by disgruntled Jan Morcha-ites. This envisages Jyoti Basu as the prime minister and a coalition government formed of a section of the Congress(I), the Janata Dal and the Left. Privately the Morcha-ites insist that this is a Congress(I) plan, but they are willing to

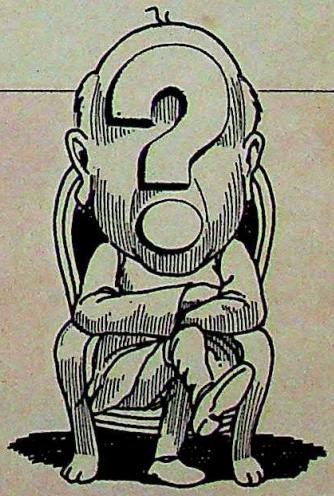
CONSPIRACY THEORY
POSSIBLE SCENARIOS



Cartoons by AJIT NINAN

SCENARIO 1
Proposed PM: Chandra Shekhar
Move supported by: Congress (I) (Rajiv Gandhi, R.K. Dhawan, M.J. Akbar).
Support solicited from: The Left; Devi Lal, Ajit Singh, George Fernandes, Jan Morcha.

SCENARIO 2
Possible PM: Jyoti Basu
Move supported by: Jan Morcha.
Support solicited from: The Left (CPI-M in particular); section of the Congress(I) without Rajiv Gandhi and elements of the Janata Dal.



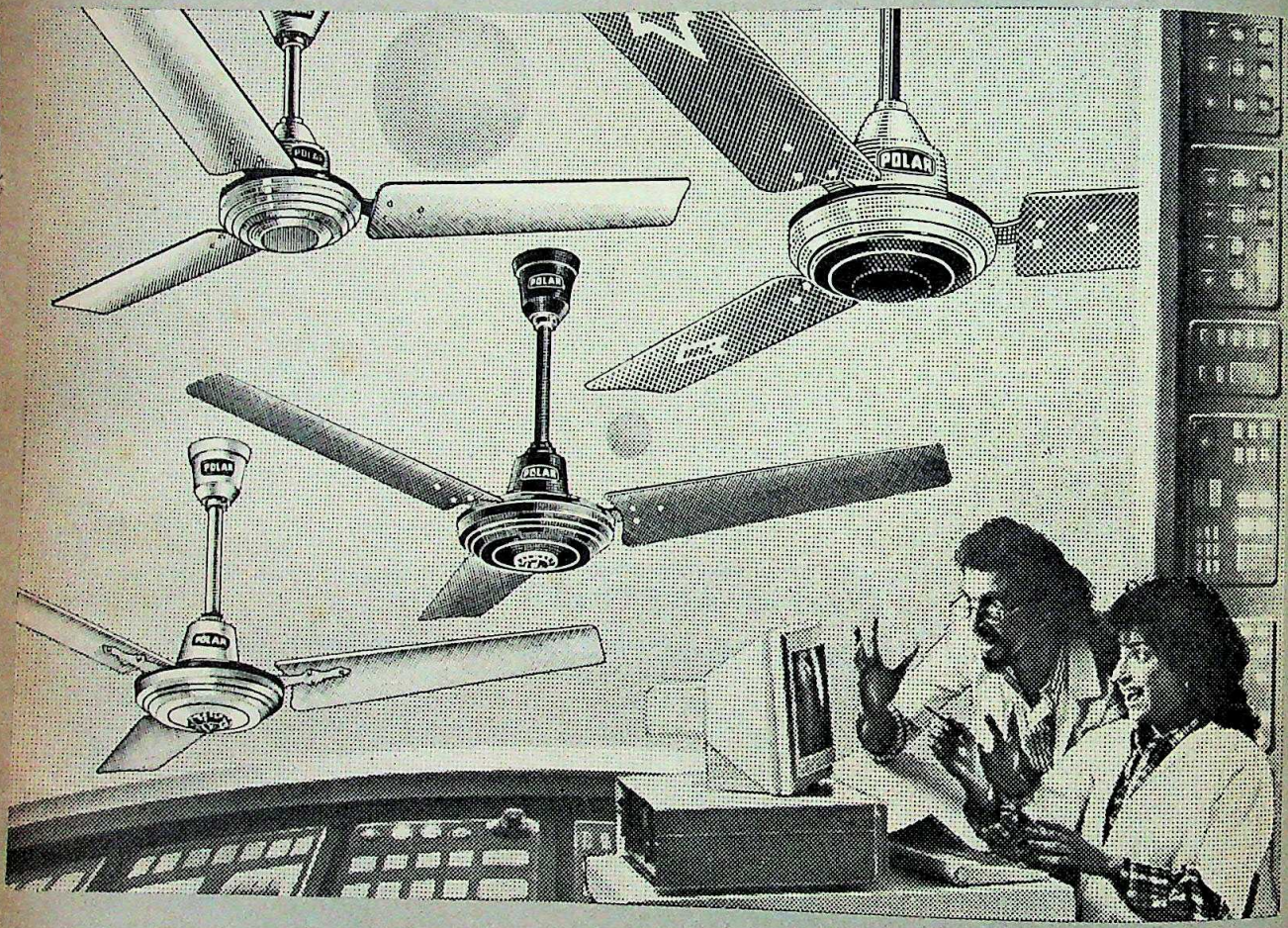
SCENARIO 3
Possible PM: Any acceptable leader
Move supported by: Jan Morcha, Congress(I), sections of the Janata Dal.
Emphasis on: Realignment of secular parties.
Excluding: BJP, V.P.Singh and Rajiv.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

POLAR

Polar Fan Scientist's breakthrough leaves other fans in the past!



Presenting

Aavishkaar 1990

Designed, created and practically invented by the Polar Fan Scientist.

Can the Polar Fan Scientist honestly claim to have reinvented the ceiling fan? Take a look at the Aavishkaar 1990 range of ceiling fans. The Polar Fan Scientist has outdated every other fan motor. With a new motor that would put a hurricane to shame.

He's designed the blades with perfect balance. For the best breeze ever.

He's put stylish touches to every Polar Fan. You have an exquisite blend of colour shades to choose from-Royal Beige, Silky Green, Twin-Tone, Snow White, Deluxe Brown.

All of this plus the Polar distinction of double ball bearings and 7 years' guarantee in every Polar Ceiling Fan.

The Aavishkaar 1990 range. The better sense fans that push all other fans into the shadows of the past.

POLAR

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

extend it support. The broad framework is similar—isolate the BJP and rally around Jyoti Basu, the 'only politician' who can deliver the goods and, hopefully, unite the various factions.

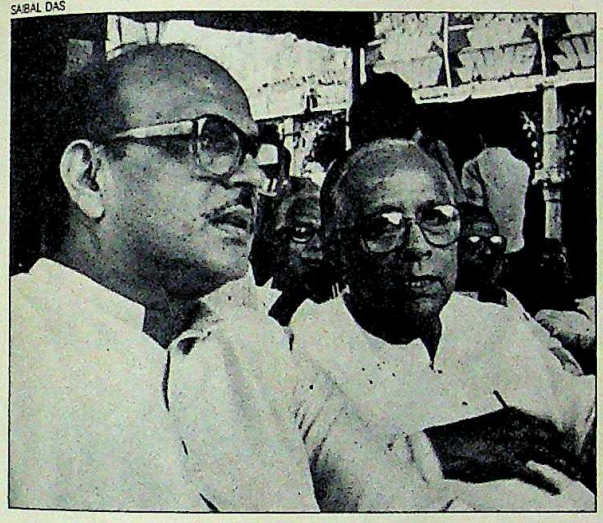
At present the Jan Morcha leaders appear to be motivated by two considerations. One, that once Singh realises his colleagues might desert him he'll try and win them back. And second, if Singh does decide to call it a day they are not left stranded, and are able to avoid, through the Basu formula, a protracted leadership struggle which they may lose. The Morcha leaders insist that if Basu agrees, Singh will be willing to resign in his favour as Basu is perceived to be the one political leader who enjoys wide credibility.

The proposal, however, is facing stiff opposition from the CPI(M) which has dismissed it as a "conspiracy to degrade us and Jyoti Basu". As Karat says: "With 32 MPs how can we have a prime minister. We will never join a government unless we have the numerical strength to lay down policy. We are definitely not interested in having a dummy prime minister."

The CPI(M) is hesitant about joining any political manoeuvre lest it sink into a mire of intrigue. Says a senior member of the party: "Our fight is against communalism and we are not interested in political realignments. We believe V.P. Singh can deliver the goods, and although he has made some mistakes he still believes in secularism." The party leaders claim they are interested in a realignment of secularists at the grassroots level and not in political machinations.

Yet another scenario is the realignment of the "Left and secular forces" to isolate the BJP and form a coalition of sections of the Congress(I) minus Rajiv Gandhi, and Janata Dal minus V.P. Singh. The Left, the strategists hope, will eventually discard its apprehensions and fall in line. This scenario is different in that no name is being mentioned for the prime ministership. Say the proponents: "Let the realignment come about, let us agree in principle and a prime minister will emerge on his own."

SABAL DAS



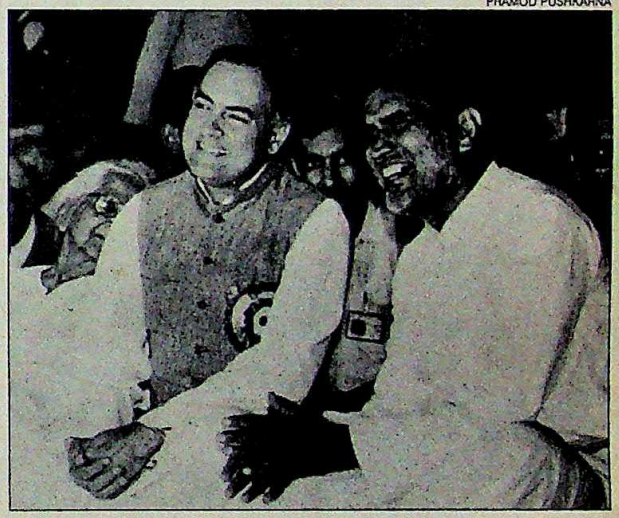
V.P. Singh with Jyoti Basu: continuing allies

The CPI(M) is unwilling to join any conspiracy against the Government because it feels that though V.P. Singh has made mistakes, he still believes in secularism.

In the Congress(I)'s estimation, a national government with Chandra Shekhar as prime minister is only a stopgap arrangement to bring Rajiv Gandhi back to power.

Rajiv Gandhi with Chandra Shekhar: wily manoeuvres

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



SUCH an attitude is aimed at allaying the apprehensions of the CPI(M), at making it appear that individuals aren't important and that a coalition should be worked out on the basis of issues. In this nameless alignment the Jan Morcha evinces more interest than any of the others.

Nor are these conspiracies limited to drawing-rooms. Says a senior Janata Dal functionary: "These moves are far more serious than you would think." Akbar admits there is 'talk', and asks sarcastically: "Tell me, why are people conspiring against the Government at a time when there should still be spring in the air for V.P. Singh?" Explains a Janata Dal leader: "Singh has generated insecurity within the Government. He does not take anyone into confidence, he supports one minister and then alienates him to support another." One result: ministers are meeting the conspirators, offering support or at least lending a ear.

It's Kashmir—especially the appointment and subsequent recall of Jagmohan—that proved the flash-point. The attack on Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed aggravated matters, and the issue was taken up by Jan Morcha members at the meeting of the Cabinet Committee on Political Affairs (CCPA) on June 5. The signature campaign to oust the Mufti was reportedly organised by Janata Dal MP Santosh Bharatiya, said to be close to Singh. One minister says the campaign was organised to appease George Fernandes who was a little put out after being relieved of the Kashmir Affairs portfolio. But, asks this minister: "When will Singh realise that such gimmicks make no one happy, and add to the general climate of insecurity?"

The Jan Morcha members are also unhappy about the election of the party president. Sources claim the Morcha members were supporting Jaipal Reddy as V.P. Singh's choice. But when Devi Lal pushed the issue,

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PEAKS OF EXCELLENCE

- Owned Funds : Rs. 458.00 crores
- Reserves : Rs. 400.00 crores
- Net Profit : Rs. 61.27 crores
- Rate of Dividend : 20.5%
- Owned Fund - Deposit Ratio : 4.2%

HIGHEST AMONG NATIONALISED BANKS

FIRST BANK TO DECLARE THE ACCOUNTING POLICIES

Hallmarks of superior performance

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31.03.1990

STATEMENT OF POSITION - CONDENSED VERSION

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES (Rs. in crores)

31st March 1989			31st March 1990
48.95	Capital (Paid Up)		57.91
295.00	Reserve funds & other Reserves		400.00
9,340.65	Deposit & other accounts		10,922.67
913.74	Borrowing from Banks & Agents etc.		1,926.74
234.28	Bills Payable		332.52
514.30	Bills for collection As *per contra*		670.72
407.86	Other liabilities		440.51
1,302.63	Acceptance, Endorsements, etc., *per contra*		1,519.26
54.94	Profit for the year	61.27	
40.00	Less transferred to Reserve Funds & other Reserves.	45.00	
6.20	Transferred to contingency	6.25	
8.74	Balance transferred to Central Govt.		10.02
13,066.15			16,280.35

PROPERTY AND ASSETS (Rs. in crores)

31st March 1989		31st March 1990
1,531.54	Cash in hand and with Banks	2,427.34
41.00	Money at Call & Short notice	135.00
3,068.77	Investment in Govt. & other Securities	4,196.34
5,801.95	Advances	6,498.48
514.30	Bills for collection As *per contra*	670.72
1,302.63	Acceptance, Endorsements etc., *per contra*	1,519.26
54.74	Premises	57.25
51.85	Furniture & Fixtures	58.27
699.20	Other Assets	717.52
0.17	Non-Banking Assets	0.17
13,066.15		16,280.35

CANARA BANK
(A Govt. of India Undertaking)
Head Office, Bangalore 560 002

A commitment to people

Nilson/293

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JK PAPER CARRIES ON THE MAGIC OF COMMUNICATION

Communication

The magic which has made man the undisputed master of the Universe. With power over beast and nature.

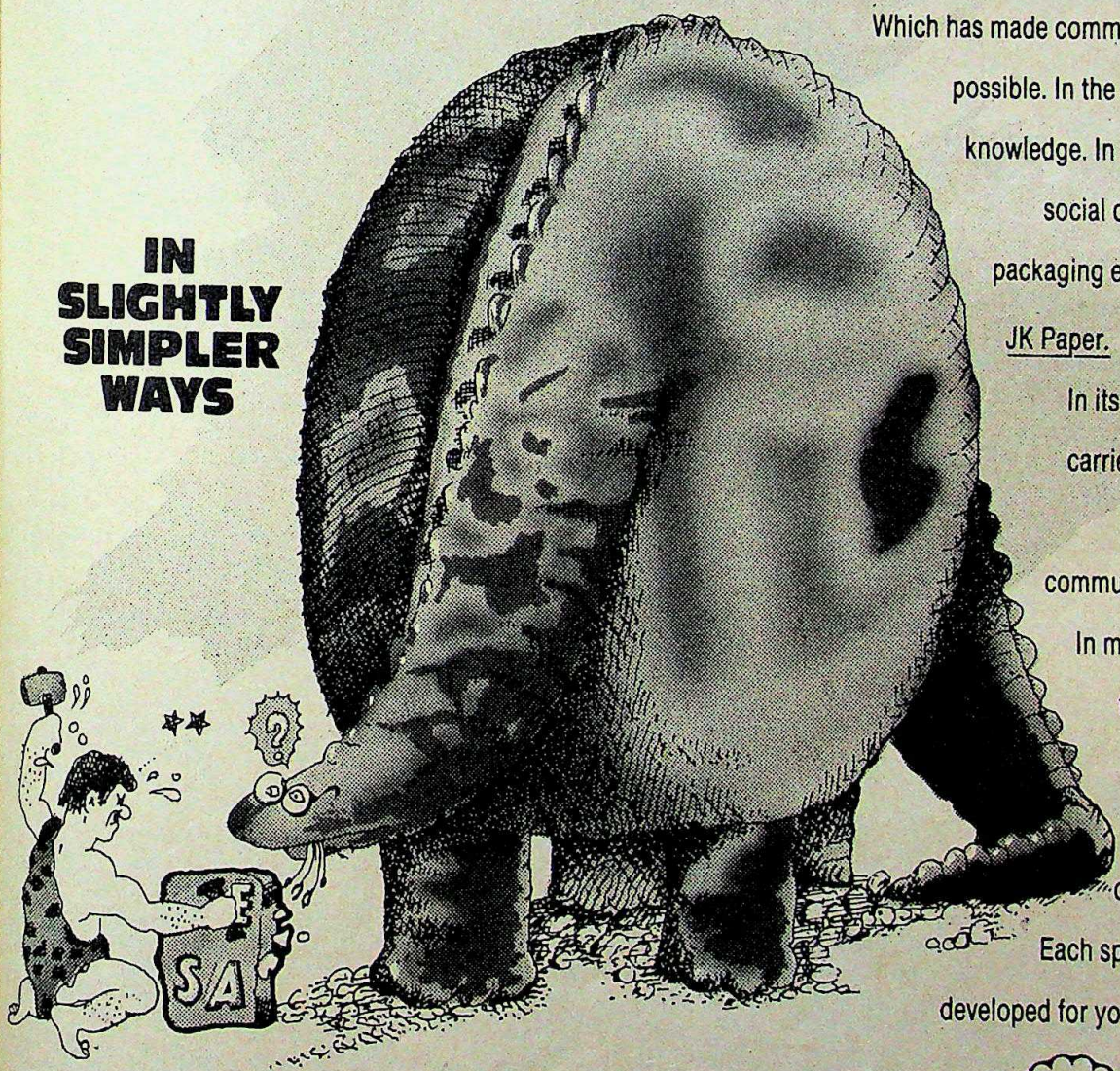
And Paper.

Which has made communication possible. In the spread of knowledge. In business, social contact or packaging essentials.

JK Paper.

In its own way carries on this magic of communication. In more ways than one. Through its range of papers. Each specifically developed for your needs.

IN SLIGHTLY SIMPLER WAYS



JAYKAY

JK PAPER
A DIVISION OF
STRAW PRODUCTS LTD.

JK BOND • JK AIRMAIL • JK POSTER • JK SUPER COPIER • JK COTE PAPER & BOARDS • JK CREAMWOVE • JK MAPLITHO

FS Advertising/JKP/400

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

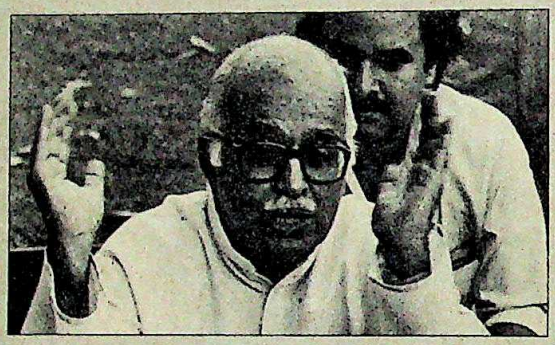
Singh, according to them, declared himself neutral. Consequently, Bommai was elected unopposed. Singh's statement about a national government was also taken up at the June 5 meeting of the CCPA by some members who pointed out that such statements confused the rank and file.

Singh's strategy, it is obvious, was to burst the conspiracy bubble by talking of a national government, but not everyone agrees that it's worked out that way. The call for a national government coming from a prime minister is not deemed sound political strategy. Singh's supporters in the Janata Dal insist it was a well-timed 'pre-emptive strike' while detractors in the Government point out that pre-empting, in political parlance, amounts to an admission that one is scared enough to react.

THE conspiracies, however, remain at a very nebulous stage thanks to the Left which is refusing to entertain any devious designs against Singh. Interestingly, the BJP's stand is similar to that of the Left. Moreover, the prime minister has considerable personal goodwill among the electorate, and most politicians are wary of bringing him down not so much because they fear instability but because they're uncertain of the public consequences.

The supreme irony is that V.P. Singh's seeming invincibility should stem from the very support-combination that was initially expected to fatally cripple him: the BJP and the Left, as different as chalk from cheese—the clearest vindication of Singh's original strategy. And the several conspirators realise this, for even at their most optimistic they give their 'strategies' at least six months to a year to bear fruit.

—SEEMA MUSTAFA



BJP

Getting Tough

IS the Janata Dal-BJP honeymoon over? BJP General Secretary J.P. Mathur dismisses the question: *"Jab shadi nahin hui to honeymoon kaisa?"* (When there was no marriage, where is the question of a honeymoon?) That casual quip conceals the sea change in the relationship between the two parties. With the removal of Jagmohan from the governorship of Jammu and Kashmir, the BJP has overnight turned from an apologist of the Government into an indignant critic.

BJP President L.K. Advani set the tone. The withdrawal of Jagmohan, he declared, was a capitulation to Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, the National Conference, the Shahi Imam of Delhi's Jama Masjid and the Congress(I). Added another MP: "Jagmohan's resignation amounts to a betrayal of the confidence we reposed in the prime minister." What irked the BJP was that Prime Minister V.P. Singh hadn't even consulted it before taking the decision.

Kedar Nath Sahni, another general secretary, dashed off an angry letter to V.P. Singh, resigned from the all-party committee on Kashmir and made it clear that his party's support can't be taken for granted any more. "Our support is critical," he says. "We will be very harsh on issues concerning the integrity of the nation. Recalling Jagmohan was a crime against national integration." Adds Mathur: "We will be expressing our opinion and differences both in private and public."

Importantly, these won't be polite expressions of disagreement. The BJP is making the recall of Jagmohan the main plank of its 'Kashmir campaign' which coincides with the start of the 'national integration fortnight' on June 23, the death anniversary of Jana Sangh founder Shyama Prasad Mookerjee.

The tirade will be spearheaded by a 40-minute film produced at the studio of party MP, J.K. Jain. The film depicts Hindu migrants from the valley, Kashmir militants in action, and senior party leaders like Advani and Atal Behari Vajpayee addressing rallies against Pakistani interference in Kashmir. More interestingly, it shows Benazir Bhutto's outbursts in support of the militants and BJP leader Arif Beg's rebuttal of her charges.

Kashmir isn't the only issue on which the BJP is getting tough with the National Front Government. Punjab is another. The BJP wants the Government to adopt a hard line and party spokesman Kishen Lal Sharma had consistently been demanding that Nirmal Mukarji be sacked as governor.

The Ram Janmabhoomi-Babri Masjid controversy marks another potential confrontation. With the four-month deadline on the dispute ending this fortnight, and no solution forthcoming, the BJP was contemplating throwing its weight behind the Vishwa Hindu Parishad's campaign to construct a temple at Ayodhya.

The BJP also feels let down because the Government has not so far granted statehood to Delhi. It also plans to launch an agitation protesting against soaring prices and the Government's failure to implement its promise to waive farmers' loans.

The divisions between the BJP and the Janata Dal run deep, nevertheless BJP leaders hasten to add that they aren't thinking of withdrawing support to the Government. With 86 members in the Lok Sabha and three state governments under its control, that support is crucial. Says Sharma: "We will point out the Government's lapses but certainly not stretch things to the breaking point."

Maybe. But the thread by which the National Front Government hangs has been frayed by a few more strands. There aren't many left.

—BHASKAR ROY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Go Newstracking in June

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Punjab: Administration two steps behind

Kiran Bedi: Tough cop, tougher law

Apeejay School: Principled Principal beaten up

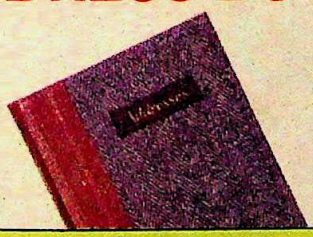
Pespi-Thums Up: Corporate bashing

Shabana Azmi: Actress with a cause

Plus: An International Capsule

SPECIAL SUBSCRIPTION OFFERS

FREE INDIA TODAY ADDRESS BOOK



Rs. 1380/- for an annual subscription to *NEWSTRACK* i.e. 12 cassettes and a free INDIA TODAY ADDRESS BOOK, exquisitely bound in real herring bone tweed. This offer has been extended upto August 31st, 1990. Address books will be delivered at your given address.

SINGLE CASSETTE OFFER

Rs. 145/- for a single cassette of the current issue.

DISCOUNTED BACK-ISSUES

Rs. 135/- for each back issue of *NEWSTRACK*. Please give details of which volumes you wish to order.

Please draw your remittance in favour of Living Media India Ltd. by cheque/DD and mail alongwith your name and address to LIVING MEDIA INDIA LTD., P.O. BOX 29, NEW DELHI-110 001.
Cheques/Demand Drafts payable at Delhi, Bombay, Calcutta and Madras must be MICR only.

In case the subscription coupon below has already been used by someone else, please write to us at the address given above enclosing the required amount and details of the issues you want/the month you desire your subscription to commence from. Please allow 2-3 weeks for us to process and action your subscription.

Cassettes will be home delivered by Courier or Registered Post.

cut here

s, I want to subscribe to *NEWSTRACK*. Enclosed is my
bscription remittance by cheque/DD No. _____
ated _____ for
Rs. 145/- for a single copy of the June issue.
Rs. 135/- each for the back issues of the month of _____
Rs. 1380/- for an annual subscription to *NEWSTRACK*
commencing from the month of _____ and my free
INDIA TODAY ADDRESS BOOK

Please deliver my cassette to
Name _____
Address _____
_____
Pin Code _____ Tel No. _____

This coupon can also be used for subscription renewal.
Please indicate your subscription no. _____

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

PUNJAB

The Malaise Deepens

Another new governor assumes charge, even as the chaos continues to mount with Simranjit Singh Mann and the terrorists running amok.

THE nation's new gruesome centre-stage may be the Kashmir valley, but Punjab remains an agony without end. Last fortnight not only disinterred grim images of Operation Bluestar, but more ominously once more brought to the forefront the spectre of uncertainty, drift and growing terrorist violence.

The observance of *ghallughara* (genocide) week by the militants—to coincide with the June 6 anniversary of Operation Bluestar—saw an unprecedented rise in terrorist crime, and with mammoth crowds attending functions sponsored by terrorist groups it was clear that the drift in the state had again taken a serious turn. A despondent Centre, continuing to display a lack of political will, reacted typically: Nirmal Kumar Mukarji was removed from governorship and Virendra Verma, a little-known Janata Dal member of the Rajya Sabha, appointed in his place.

On the face of it, Verma's appointment seemed strange and disappointing, considering he has neither any links with Punjab nor the reputation of being a sterling administrator. However, a closer look revealed the faint outlines of a gameplan. It is perhaps hoped that Verma, who's a politician by instinct and breeding, will be able to revive the political process in Punjab, much in the manner Arjun Singh did five years ago, with the intention of holding state elections towards the end of the year.

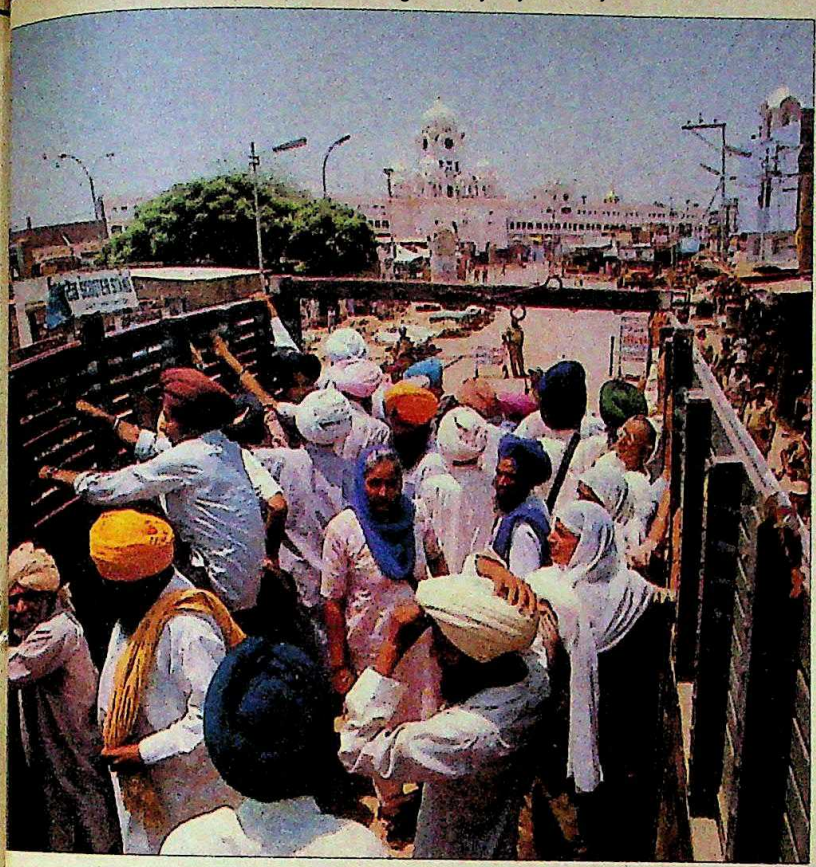
But at this juncture that seems like so much wishful thinking. For the chances of a political solution have been steadily receding what with Simranjit Singh Mann, the maverick president of the Akali Dal (Mann), mouthing an increasingly shrill militancy.

Worse, last fortnight again saw on display the contradictions that have always riven and continue to undermine the Centre's Punjab policy. In a startling statement, Mukarji admitted that the "anguish of Bluestar is still with us and for many it will remain as a wound for ever". He made a fervent appeal for peace, declaring it was a time for 'remembrance'. But at the same time the state administration clamped down heavily to foil a religio-political 'martyrs' gathering' in the Golden Temple complex in Amritsar. Mann was detained, as was the president of the All India Sikh Students' Federation, Manjit Singh, and entry into the temple complex was stopped for a day. The eerie silence that enveloped the temple on June 6 was symbolic of the political vacuum gripping Punjab today.

The Centre behaved in a no more

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



(From left) Mann and Manjit Singh; people held near Golden Temple

eassuring fashion. It displayed the classic dithers. When Congress(I) President Rajiv Gandhi had demanded Mukarji's recall, the Government supported the Governor's continuance. Then, only a week later, Mukarji was asked to submit his resignation. The fact that he was asked to do so without a successor having been chosen did yet more discredit to the Government. Further indication of the prevailing pessimism was the reluctance of most to accept the gubernatorial post in Punjab.

The pessimism is well-merited. The past few weeks have shown clearly that Mann has finally cast his lot with the militants, and is no longer the 'great Punjab hope' that he'd seemed six months ago. Embarked on a *ros march* (protest march) for restoration of the democratic process, he covered several villages in the border districts of Amritsar and Gurdaspur, where besides listening to people's grievances, he delivered diatribes against the Government in general and the police in particular. "We have to decide whether to remain as slaves in India or have our own 'Khalsa Raj'," he thundered. He even singled out police officers for excesses, which was a clear provocation for the terrorists to try and eliminate them.

Mann's brief honeymoon with the V.P. Singh Government is clearly over.

The past few weeks have shown clearly that Mann has finally cast his lot with the militants.

In village after village he has been repeating: "Look, our two simple demands—for the release of all the Sikh youth and an end to atrocities in the villages by dismantling of the repressive machinery—have not been accepted."

He has been covering up to 10 villages in a day where the gatherings vary from 500-strong to 5000—often these meetings carry on well into the night. Mann's skewed thinking is also evident in the twist he gives to the kirpan controversy, saying his succumbing on the issue would be like a general admitting defeat by surrendering weapons.

Mann has also been making it a point to attend as many 'bhog' ceremonies of slain terrorists as possible—often three in a day. One such ceremony which had the Government worried was on June 5 at Kammowal village in Amritsar district, which was attended by about one lakh people. At these functions, terrorists are eulogised for their 'heroic sacrifices', and are compared to the martyrs of Sikh history.

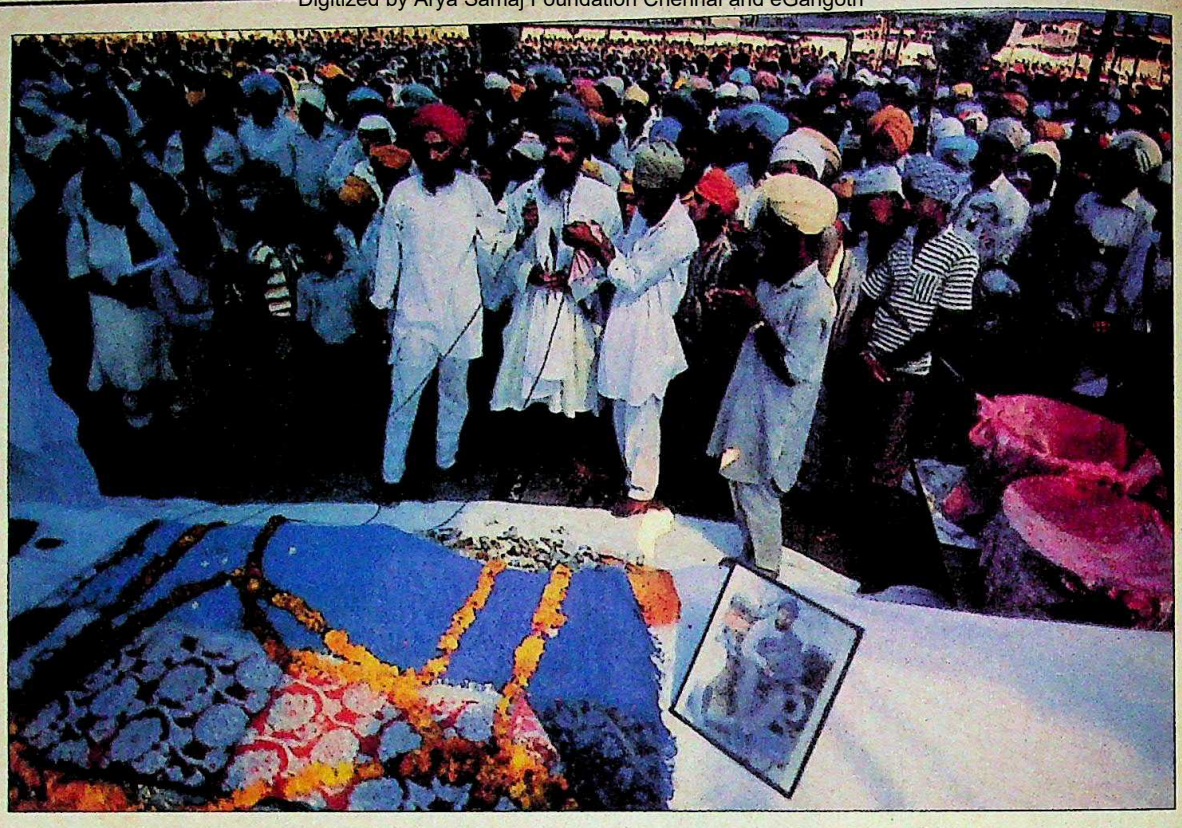
These ceremonies are occasions for outright display of separatist sentiment. Banners with names of the killed terrorists are displayed on the stage, and the names of the village panchayats who've sent money are read out. Also, 'saropas' are given to the relations of killed terrorists. This trend has been on the increase since a 'bhog' for a slain terrorist chieftain, Jugraj Singh alias Toofan Singh in Batala police district two months ago evoked a tremendous response. And while the Government may have gone to great lengths recently to thwart a gathering at the Golden Temple complex, it has done virtually nothing to prevent such functions.

Meanwhile, the Akalis continue to be a house divided. Mann has not only decided to have no truck with the Centre, but has also washed his hands off the other Akali factions. Asked about the chances of unity with the Prakash Singh Badal group, Mann said: "I don't think it will materialise. While our constituency is of the people who have suffered, theirs is of self-seekers." Badal, in turn, prefers to retain a separate identity for his party. And last week when the SGPC, which is aligned to the Badal group, nominated Ranjit Singh—the accused in the Nirankari Baba murder case—as Akal Takht chief it was clear Badal too was opting for aggressive militancy.

All this is evidence that the Centre's political manoeuvring in Punjab has come to nothing. Not only has the Mann card backfired, but even the Badal alternative initiated by Deputy Prime Minister Devi Lal has floundered. An attempt had been made to build up Badal and there had been a move to effect a *rapprochement* between the Badal and Surjit Singh Barnala factions by appointing Barnala as the governor of Tamil Nadu. However, it yielded nothing because many in the Barnala faction were keen to throw in their lot with the Mann faction. A further dampener was served up in the form of a terrorist attack on SGPC President Gurcharan Singh Tohra. The upshot: the Badal faction last fortnight finally denounced the National Front Government for its Punjab

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



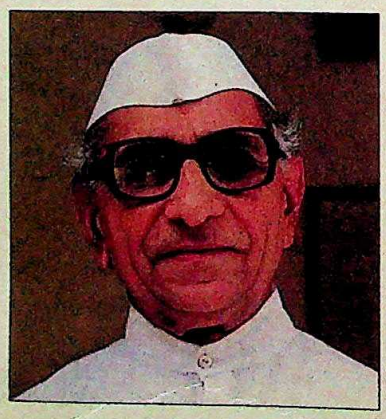
'Bhog' ceremony of a slain terrorist: ominous signs

policy. The party resolution said: "The Government has grossly failed to appreciate the aspirations of the Sikhs and has made the problem more complicated and irretrievable."

Meanwhile, the Centre's clandestine efforts to split the Mann faction have not borne fruit. The Akali Dal MP from Sangrur, Rajdev Singh, who raised the banner of revolt against Mann, has been marginalised. Consequently, Mann has managed to retain a measure of relevance despite his outrageous statements and actions.

While the political front has yielded nothing, the law and order situation continues to deteriorate, undermining the Government's design of holding assembly elections by November, after reining in terrorism. Terrorist violence in Punjab last month reached alarming proportions, with 200 terrorist killings being recorded, one of the highest tolls ever. Besides, there was a sharp increase in the attacks on security personnel, and many more bomb blasts. A recent intelligence report recorded that there are now 93 terrorist gangs operating in Punjab, with each gang having 10 to 60 members. Most of these are active in the districts bordering Pakistan.

In these areas few people venture out of their homes after 6 p.m. After that, it is the terrorists who call the shots. Often, they roam about openly in groups of 15 to 20. So deep is the fear of terrorists that a handwritten order on a piece of paper signed by a terrorist organisation is sufficient to make shops in an entire town down their shutters. Advertisements eulogising terrorists killed in encounters appear daily in vernacular newspapers. And about a hundred memorials in honour of killed terrorists are being openly built all over the three border districts. In fact villagers, including Hindus, bank upon the terrorists for survival, and pay them obeisance.



It is hoped that Verma, a politician, will be able to revive the political process.

Mukarji during his tenure did try to replace the state's police face with a civil one. But the rise in violence and lack of any political initiative from Delhi eclipsed all such efforts. Moreover, his inability to overhaul the administration, particularly the higher echelons of the police, proved his real undoing. The task before the new governor is completely uphill. Unlike six months ago when Mukarji took over, Verma will suffer from the fact that all the Akali factions are disenchanted with the National Front Government. He comes to Punjab at a time when the state is reeling under the twin curse of terrorism and political indecision. And no matter if his brief is to usher in the political process, he will first have to stem the law and order rot. And that, in the past six years, has been the undoing of many a governor.

—KANWAR SANDHU

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What makes a person take a life insurance policy? Most often, it is his concern for the security of his dependants—wife, children, aged parents... So, when LIC's new business grows, it indicates that concern for the family has grown. It is also true that the biggest sales promoters of life insurance are a policyholder's family.

In 1989-90 LIC's Individual insurance business was Rs.23,268.97 crore. The Corporation surpassed its last year's performance by over Rs.6,000 crore—an increase of 35%.

Under 8,856 Group Insurance Schemes, 15.45 lakh lives were covered. The total sum assured was Rs.2,043.28 crore.

Pension plans have become popular. 1,83,942 policies netting a premium of Rs.168.50 crore were issued.

LIC is now a multi-dimensional organization but its primary concern will continue to be to provide life insurance cover to people.

योगक्षेमं वहाम्यहम्

Life Insurance Corporation of India
– in the service of the people.

TADEUS/LIC/004-90-A R

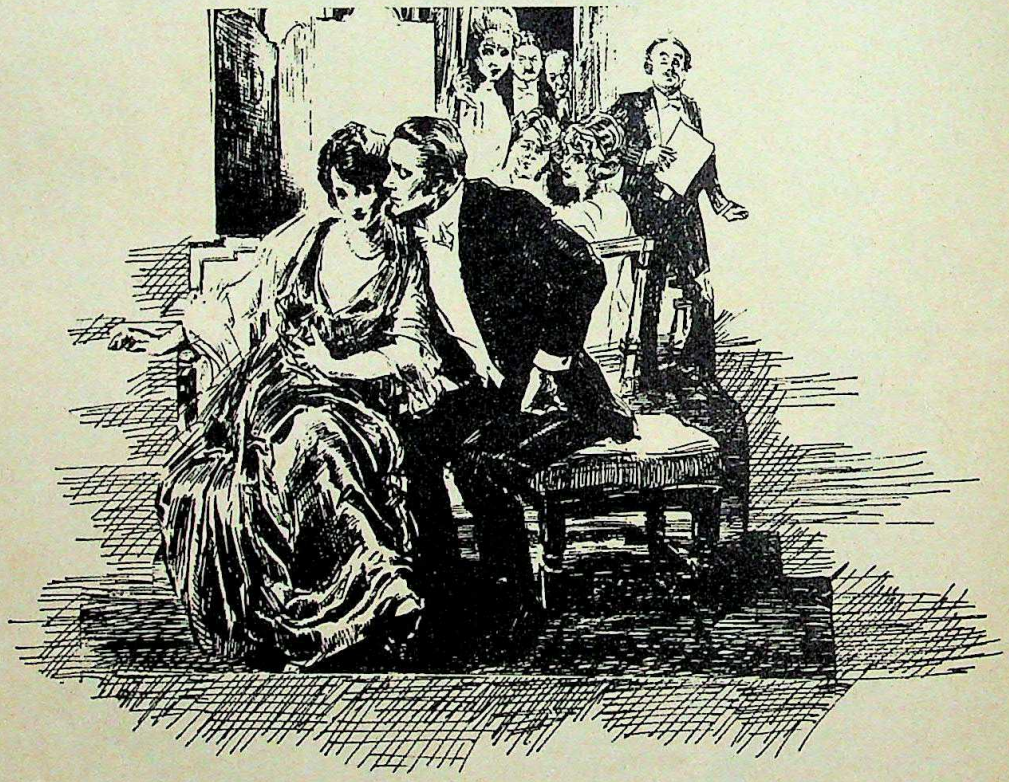
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

EXPERIENCE THE JOY OF

SIMPLE PLEASURES IN LINGERING SHADOWS

AND BEAUTIFUL MOMENTS WELL SPENT



FOR LADIES

• The Benaras, Satya Paul, The Indus & Neo-Classique: SARIÉS

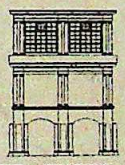
• Kin Khaab: SILKS • Rabia: DRESS FABRICS • Florence & Autumn Leaf: SUITS

• Symphony: MIX & MATCH • Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING • Cashmere: SHAWLS

Satish Sud Graphics/3

SGPC in Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection

HANDLOOM EMPORIUM RECREATES
THE BYGONE ERA OF LEISURED LIVING
IN ITS REDESIGNED SHOPPING ENVIRONMENT WITH
THE FINEST LINE OF MERCHANDISING
IN FABRICS, SARIÉS AND READY TO WEAR CLOTHES
DESIGNED & PRODUCED
BY THE MOST REPUTED NAMES
IN THE COUNTRY
TO THE EXACTING STANDARDS OF
HERITAGE



HERITAGE™
AT
handloom emporium

G-XII HANDLOOM EMPORIUM MANOR
SHOPPING PLAZA SOUTH EXTENSION-I NEW DELHI-110 049 INDIA
TLFN: (011) 62-3208, 61-7050, 62-5099

FOR GENTS

• *Van Gogh: SUITINGS* • *Michelangelo: READYMADES* • *Here & Now: ACCESSORIES*
• *Cézanne: JACKETS & TROUSERS* • *Exclusif Fashionist: CUSTOM TAILORING* • *Marcopolo: GIFTABLES*

FOR CHILDREN

• *Roots: READY TO WEAR*

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MUFTI MOHAMMED SAYEED

In the Hot Seat

The home minister under increasing pressure

IT seems a political anachronism. The hottest seat in the country today belongs to the home minister. The current occupant, Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, a soft-spoken, avuncular figure who seems more at home in back-slapping bonhomie than in controlling the bushfires of terrorism and communal tension. His being a Muslim and a Kashmiri—originally considered a master-stroke by the prime minister—makes his job doubly difficult.

By last fortnight, the Mufti was realising just how hot his seat really is. No less than 50 Janata Dal MPs signed a memorandum seeking his removal from the key ministry. In the currently surcharged political atmosphere, it appeared that the Mufti's hour of reckoning was at hand.

What added to the Mufti's insecurity was the impression that the dissenters had the backing of V.P. Singh, a fear aired by long-time confidant and cabinet colleague, Satya Pal Malik. The heckling in Parliament that the Mufti has been subjected to recently, added its own message. In a fit of dejection, the Mufti even called up 7 Race Course Road and offered to resign. The prime minister, in his inimitable style, reassured the Mufti by saying that perhaps he should resign too because so many people asked him to do so every day.

But that relief may prove temporary. If the Mufti has survived it is not due to his performance but thanks to his personal popularity and strong equations within the Janata Dal. Moreover, V.P. Singh is determined to ensure his experiment of installing a Muslim in the key post succeeds.

> The Mufti is on the hottest seat and the political Damocles sword over his head hangs by a slender thread.

However there is another side to V.P.Singh's Mufti card. He serves to take the flak for tough decisions taken by the prime minister. Most recently, the easy going home minister faced the wrath of the BJP and others opposed to the removal of governors Jagmohan and Nirmal Mukarji from the key states of Jammu & Kashmir and Punjab. Says socialist leader Madhu Limaye: "Indira Gandhi had Zail Singh. Rajiv Gandhi had Buta Singh. V.P. Singh has the Mufti. All troubled prime ministers depend on incompetent home ministers who are political light-weights."

But for many analysts, much of the Mufti's current problems are of his own making. Even within the Janata Dal, he is seen as too soft to occupy the hot-seat of the home minister when the country is faced with the bushfires of separatism and run-away communalism.

The pressure against Mufti has been growing steadily. He's been accused of obstructing Jagmohan's path to Srinagar's Raj Bhavan. The Ayodhya dispute has led the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) to openly show its unhappiness in dealing with a Home Ministry led by a Muslim. Then, the former minister for Kashmir affairs,

The Mufti with Sahai in Kashmir

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INTRODUCING THE PEN THAT CAN CORRECT YOUR HANDWRITING.

No more fights between ink and gravity. No more friction between paper and metal. Introducing Camlin Premier. The perfect fountain pen crafted with precision German technology.

A pen designed to add character to your handwriting.

A pen designed to add wings to your words and make writing a pleasure.

Pick a Premier. Gift a Premier.

You can't express yourself better.

You can be the proud owner of a Camlin Premier within 4 weeks. Just mail this coupon now.

Camlin Ltd., Stationery Division, Camlin House, J.B. Nagar, Bombay 400 059

[ ] Yes, I would like to buy Camlin Premier. Please send me presentation cases of: (indicate number)

[_____] Pens in Jet Black • [_____] Pens in Rich Maroon.

My demand draft, in favour of CAMLIN LTD. for Rs _____ @ Rs 295.00 per pen is enclosed.

[ ] Please let me know about Camlin's special schemes for corporate or

Name : Mr/Ms. _____

Address : _____

_____

PIN : _____ Tel : _____

Signature : _____

camlin PREMIER

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Of what use is information technology to a man who just can't wait to get back home ?

It's an emergency. He's needed home most urgently. Obviously nothing matters more to him than his journey home. And any technology that can make. railway tickets easier to book is meaningful to him. Not to mention millions like him. Information technology from Motorola is one such example. It has already helped in networking railway booking centres around the country. To give everyone the same information at the same time. Speeding up reservations. Providing accuracy. Offering conveniences like return bookings. Thus benefiting people like this man who can book a seat without even going to the railway station. At Motorola, we have the technological understanding and the prowess to develop many such advanced software and hardware solutions that can better the human experience. So that high technology isn't just relevant to Star-wars and Space Research. But also to this man.

INDIA

TOGETHER WE'LL MAKE TECHNOLOGY WORK

MOTOROLA

TWO WAY RADIOS, PAGERS, CELLULAR TELEPHONES AND SYSTEMS, DATA COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION PROCESSING EQUIPMENT SEMICONDUCTORS, DEFENCE AND AEROSPACE ELECTRONICS, AUTOMOTIVE AND INDUSTRIAL ELECTRONICS, COMPUTERS.

India Liaison Office : 822, Meridien Commercial Towers, Windsor Place, New Delhi-110 001, India. Tel : 3711549 Tlx : (31) 62902 Fax : 3718086.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

LINTAS (DELHI)/MOT (I)/2435

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Tea to revive. Ice to refresh!

Nothing revives like tea. Especially when it's iced. Light. Clean. Brisk. Refreshing. That's iced tea. No artificial flavouring. No extra calories. No belly-filling fizz. No harmful ingredients!

Just drop a Taj Tea Bag into a tall glass. Pour on a little hot water. Dip dip dip. Let it cool. Add cold water and ice. Sugar, mint and lime. And your iced tea is ready to sip!

ICED TEA

HTA 9150

TAJ MAHAL TEA BAGS

So tasteful. So simple.

Brooke Bond Tea.
Packed with care. Packed for consistent quality.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

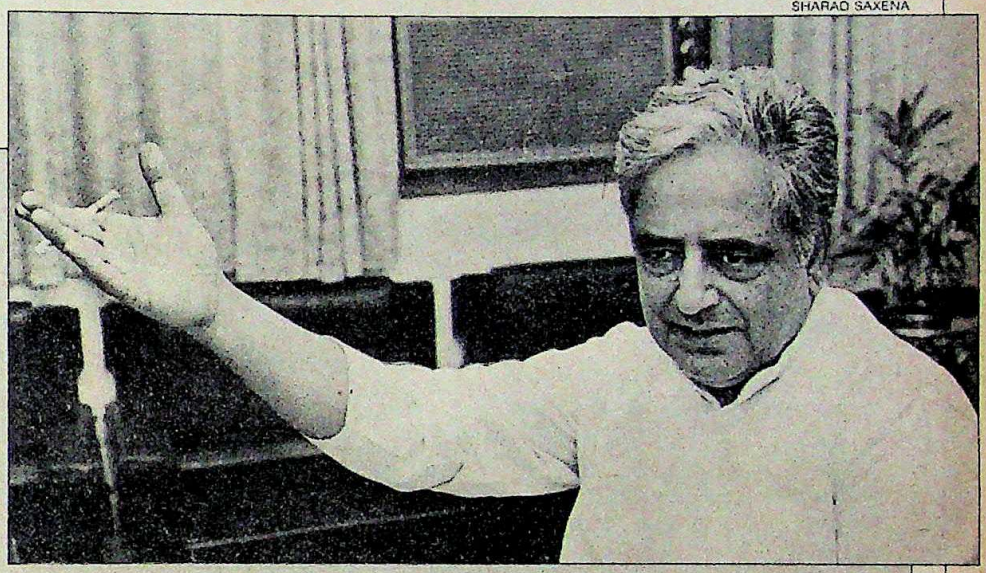
George Fernandes, had accused him of joining hands with Jagmohan to scuttle his visits to the valley.

Meanwhile, in Parliament, Singh had to come to the Mufti's rescue at least three times in the last session when the Congress(I) attacked his handling of separatism in Kashmir, Punjab, and Assam. Bhim Singh of the Jammu and Kashmir Panthers Party even moved the Supreme Court against the home minister following the arrest of the Shankaracharya in Uttar Pradesh. When Fernandes resigned as the Kashmir affairs minister, he bluntly told Singh that a solution to Kashmir could not be found if the home minister was not changed.

It is in fact the Mufti's handling of the Kashmir problem that has come in for the greatest criticism. Though Jagmohan himself never charged the Mufti of meddling, the former governor's friends point out that the two men were often at cross purposes. They cite the nomination of two former ministers P.L. Handoo and Shafi Qureshi to the now defunct all-party panel on Kashmir. Both were suspected to be involved in corrupt deals which Jagmohan was investigating.

While at first the Mufti was accused of opposing Jagmohan, later when many parties began hankering for the governor's removal, the home minister was believed to be backing him to counter Fernandes. But when Jagmohan, here is a new man.

SHARAD SAXENA



Mufti Mohammed Sayeed

INTERVIEW

"I'm a soft target"

SADDLED with the image of a soft-man-in-the-hot-seat, he has never managed to fit into the 'fire-fighting' Home Ministry. But now, Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed, 54, is trying to shrug off that image. He shook hands with securitymen on the Kashmir border and talked tough about the problem of militants. He spoke to Senior Correspondent PANKAJ PACHAURI, *Excerpts:*

Q. ***Why did party MPs campaign against you?***

A. It wasn't an attack on the Mufti. Maybe the Mufti was a soft target since he is known to be a confidant of the prime minister.

Q. ***But they criticised your handling of Kashmir.***

A. By sending Jagmohan to Kashmir we made major gains. He set up this nucleus of officials to fill the administrative vacuum. And we established the authority of the state. According to the five-member delegation the situation has improved. The militants are on the run. Even the Left was satisfied with his work.

Q. ***Then why was he removed?***

A. After the Mirwaiz killing, I told the governor to avoid any confrontation. But a communication gap lead to the indefensible firing. So Jagmohan was removed. But that doesn't mean a policy change. For those who said a political process wasn't possible because of Jagmohan

Q. ***Jagmohan says there were no written orders to arrest the Mirwaiz.***

A. About a month and a half before his death, the Mirwaiz told me there was a threat to his life. This was conveyed to the prime minister who said he should be arrested. But Jagmohan felt this would lead to a reaction that could undermine his crackdown. He said he'd do it after Id. Then he said he'd do it after moving the darbar to Srinagar. Meanwhile the Mirwaiz was killed.

Q. ***What are your plans for Kashmir?***

A. Gary Saxena will deal with terrorism firmly. But it isn't only a security problem. The civil administration also has to do its job.

Q. ***Were you interfering with Jagmohan's work?***

A. I've never done that.

Q. ***The Punjab situation has deteriorated under this government.***

A. We began with a healing touch—the prime minister's visit, abrogation of the 59th amendment, releasing innocent people and rehabilitation of army deserters. But after S.S. Mann and his followers were elected, the security forces got demoralised. The ground was left open for terrorists. The political process was hamstrung.

Q. ***Hasn't your government wasted the Mann card?***

A. Mann is fickle and irrational. He says that in case of war Punjab shouldn't fight for India and calls for a plebiscite. He should show some responsibility.

Q. ***Why haven't you been tough with*** ULFA?

A. We've told the Assam Government that as our partners in the Central Government they have to deal with the separatist movement firmly. We are also implementing a package to remove the people's feelings that injustice has been done.

Q. ***Do you have a strategy on Ayodhya?***

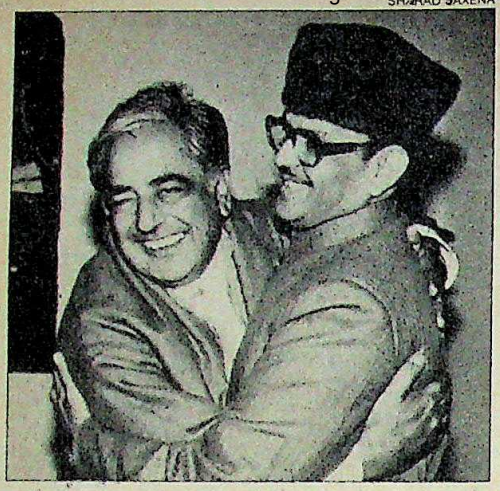
A. The prime minister told the VHP that its campaign isn't in national interest. The 10 crore Muslims have to be drawn into the national mainstream. Benazir wants to show the world that Muslims aren't safe in India. We should disprove her and let a hundred flowers bloom.

HTA 9150

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SHARAD SAXENA



The Mufti with V.P. Singh

> His mild manner and neglect of detail make for an image of inefficiency. He is also a sitting target for Hindu fundamentalists.

mohan was removed, again the home minister was blamed though it was the prime minister who'd taken the decision. And when the Kashmir affairs cell was scrapped and a fuming Fernandes rang up Singh to protest, the prime minister told him the home minister had suggested the move—again leaving the Mufti to face the flak.

The Mufti admits it is difficult to distance himself from Kashmir—where he has political roots for more than 30 years. But to his credit, he has never talked separatism, which most politicians from the valley are forced to. The Mufti has had to face the consequences of this—he won the last general election not from Kashmir but from Muzaffarnagar in Uttar Pradesh.

But at the moment, it is not Kashmir that is his main problem but his more crucial bailiwick—the Home Ministry. Even his own partymen admit that the Home Ministry under him is in a shambles. With both the Mufti and his minister of state, Subodh Kant Sahai, travelling to trouble spots every week or fending off charges when Parliament is in session, the work of the important ministry has been left to bureaucrats. And dealing with indifferent bureaucrats does not suit party MPs. In fact, the recent signature campaign against the home minister was signed by many MPs who were feeling piqued by the unresponsiveness of some other ministers as well.

True, the ministry that the Mufti inherited from Buta Singh was reduced to a fire-fighting machine. But there seems to have been no attempt on his part to streamline its functioning. Apart from the routine reshuffling of a few bureaucrats, no step has been taken to rid the ministry of Buta Singh's political appointees. He also has a tendency to send out confusing signals. For instance, when the pressure from the Left increased to play ball with Farooq Abdullah, he called the former chief minister "a man with a mass base" though his own department was busy preparing a white paper on Farooq's misdeeds in Kashmir. The Mufti's mild manner and neglect of detail completes the image of an inefficient minister.

His friends in the Cabinet claim this is actually a reflection of a new style of functioning. Says Sahai: "We had a tough Buta Singh and a thorough Chidambaram before. Look what a mess they left behind." Following the Mufti's lack-lustre performance, Sahai is now being propped up as the troubleshooter in the ministry.

Even if the confusion in the Home Ministry is cleared up, Mufti's troubles won't end. Being a Muslim home minister, he is a sitting target for Hindu communalists. The VHP in Mathura, the Shiv Sena in Jammu and the Bajrang Dal in Delhi chorus: "*Kashmir ki galiyan sooni hain, Mufti Mohammed khooni hai*" (Kashmir's streets are empty, Mufti is a murderer).

But paradoxically, it is precisely because he is a Muslim that he has survived. Says a cabinet minister: "The country's secularism hinges on whether it is able to keep Kashmir with it. And V.P. Singh's secular credentials hinge on whether he is able to keep the Mufti in the North Block."

However, with the pressure building up—and V.P.Singh's political style of removing embarrassments when the temperature gets hot—that situation may not last for long. For the Mufti, the political Damocles' sword over his head hangs by an increasingly slender thread. —PANKAJ PACHAURI

DELHI

In Limbo

Statehood issue unresolved

DELHI may be a city on the threshold of becoming a state. But the shelving of the statehood bill—even after three drafts—till the next session of Parliament indicates that the road to statehood could be strewn with political speed-breakers.

If none of the three drafts of the bill could satisfy the aspirations of all the parties involved—notably the Janata Dal, the BJP and the Congress(I)—it was because the stakes were high and no political party was willing to yield.

SHARAD SAXENA

Khurana at a protest dharna

The thorniest issue was that of delimitation of constituencies. While the Janata Dal, the Congress(I) and the Left parties agreed on dividing the total number of the last Lok Sabha votes by the number of proposed assembly constituencies (84 in this case) so that all the constituencies have roughly the same population, the BJP insisted on straight division of each parliamentary constituency into 12 assembly segments—a formula that would be electorally favourable to it.

Differences on this issue plus the fact that the Government introduced the third draft of the bill on the last day of the budget session—leaving little time to debate its merits—resulted in the bill being shelved till the monsoon session. Said Madan Lal Khurana, the BJP's Delhi unit president: "The Government has conspired with the Congress(I) to stall elections in Delhi. We will agitate." But Delhi Pradesh Congress(I) Committee General Secretary Prem Sarwaria had another complaint. "Flouting age-old parliamentary conventions, the Opposition was not taken into confidence before intro-

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

FREE FROM BIRLA YAMAHA!

A smile that lasts forever.

That's something only Birla Yamaha can give you. Because we have built Total Reliability into our range of portable generators.

A range that is the widest with 8 different models. Incorporating the latest 2 stroke and 4 stroke Yamaha technology.

Technology that works harder silently and is fuel efficient. And that has been working perfectly for the last 4 years. Without ever letting anyone down.

We were the pioneers, today we are the market leaders. And the power behind the smile of 80,000 proud owners.

BIRLA YAMAHA

PORTABLE GENERATORS

THE POWER BEHIND THE SMILE

Now also available: Multi Purpose Engine, Fogging Machine and Portable Generator-cum-Public Address System.

Head Office: Birla Yamaha Ltd., A-7, Ring Road, South Extension Part-I, New Delhi-110 049. Tel.: 690352/3/4, 626249; Telex: 031-63228 BYL IN, Fax: 626188

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Rediffusion/BY/9021

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

an

T H E N E W V O L

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

VOLTAS LIMITED
Appliances Business Group 19, J.N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038. Phone: 2618131

Until now you could not get an air conditioner as advanced as this

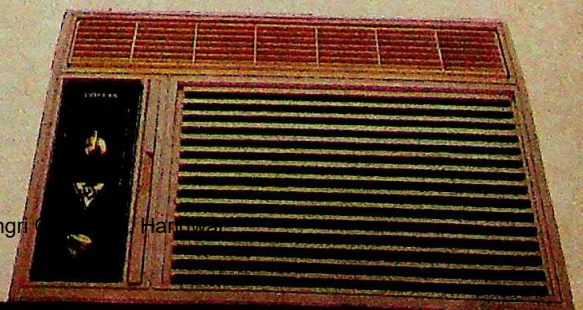
For some, 'good' is not good enough. At Voltas, we felt it was high time someone designed an air conditioner for them. Using the latest innovations in technology to battle compromise. We've done a thorough job of it. Starting with a powerhouse compressor designed to convert every unit of electricity into maximum cooling. Aided by 'triple-ripple' cooling fins to maximise heat exchange. And the new extra-drive fan featuring 3-speed control. Every detail finely tuned, right down to the unique 'slip-out' fabric filter. The result is stunning. Cooling that is quick, constant, noiseless... and evenly distributed. The New Crystal Air Conditioner from Voltas. Now you don't have to make the best of what you have. Simply have the best.

VOLTAS

AIR CONDITIONER

L A S C R Y S T A L

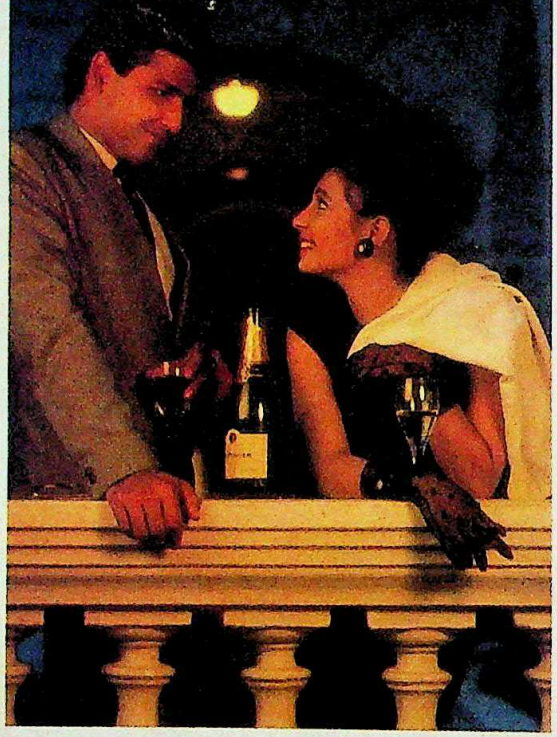
The fine art of climate control



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

A week-end on business needn't be a week-end on business for your wife anymore.



*We'll fly her out to join you.**

As a successful executive you keep your corporation ahead of yourself.
And this usually implies a good deal of travel away from home, including some precious week-ends.
Which is why we've come up with an idea that can best be described as "home-coming" — away from home.
What we'll do is to fly your wife out to join you. For the week-end at the Executive Club. It's the kind of holiday she'll really enjoy.
So the next time you jet out to the Executive Club at Delhi, Bombay, Bangalore or Madras, get together with your wife. For the week-end.
*We'll reimburse her actual travel fares to a maximum of Rs. 2,000/- (depending on the length of the week-end stay, and the city of visit).

WELCOMGROUP

Welcomgroup's special privilege for the discerning business traveller.

EXECUTIVE CLUB

* For details and bookings, call Welcomnet, Welcomgroup Hotels' Instant Reservation Network: Delhi 3014127, Bombay 2042286, Calcutta 203222, Madras 473691, Bangalore 268030, Hyderabad 825428, Ahmedabad 468603. Or the Reservations Office at any Welcomgroup hotel.

HTA 6766C

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ducing this bill. Moreover, the Janata Dal and the BJP have themselves not thrashed out differences over the issue," he said. Parliamentary Affairs Minister P. Upendra, however, accused the Congress(I) of "creating a big ruckus over the text of the bill resulting in its postponement".

If the postponement angered the BJP, the first draft of the bill—which proposed a Pondicherry-type statehood where the assembly's powers are limited and most authority rests with the governor—had resulted in the Janata Dal's Delhi unit chief Viresh Pratap Choudhary threatening to quit.

The second draft had the Congress(I) hopping mad. It proposed that a major part of New Delhi—that comes under the New Delhi Municipal Committee—and some other areas, remain a Union territory and the country's capital, while the rest of the metropolis becomes a state. The idea behind this plan was that Centre should retain control over the "prestigious parts" of Delhi. Fumed Jag Pravesh Chandra, Delhi's former chief executive councillor: "The Government only has the mandate to create a state and not to bifurcate Delhi. This proposal will create unlimited confusion." The bill in its present form gives some crucial powers—most notably law and order—to the governor. This is bound to be another bone of contention when the bill again comes up for review.

In the meantime, the political parties are busy trading charges. Said Kedar Nath Sahni, the BJP's general secretary: "The delay and confusion displayed over the bill is characteristic of this government's style of functioning. If after six long months, all it can bring forth is a half-baked bill, it's plain silly." Countered Choudhary: "If the BJP had co-operated on the delimitation issue, the bill would've been passed in this session itself."

The average Delhi citizen however seems to be cynical about the continuing wrangle. "Statehood would only mean more funds for politicians and bureaucrats to siphon off and more excuses to slap taxes on the hapless voter," said a retired professor. Chandra feels that once a state, subsidy in transport and milk will go. Choudhary and Khurana however feel that the state of Delhi will enjoy a surplus of Rs 300 crore.

Delhi's metamorphosis from city to state will be hindered, it seems, for some time to come by ifs and buts.

—SHARMILA CHANDRA

Tale of two Governors

INSIDE EYE BY INDERJIT BADHWAR

ORWELL'S recurring nightmare was the political debasement of language in which war is peace and truth is lies. I'd like to invite him to Punjab and Kashmir. Those who gloat over Jagmohan's sacking justify it on the ground that he was a ruthless toughie who refused to agree to initiate a political settlement in Kashmir. Those backing Nirmal Mukarji's ouster from Punjab propagate the view that he was a namby-pamby softie unwilling to confront the terrorist onslaught with resolve. In the hardline corner: Jagmohan. In the softline corner: Mukarji.

Consider, then, how ruthlessly the megalomaniac Jagmohan tried to snuff out the political process in Kashmir, refused to establish dialogue with the people, exulted in the killing of innocents by security forces, and slavishly adhered to the BJP line in tackling secessionism in the state.

In his first imperious bullet-for-bullet speech, after he was sworn in as governor, he threatened: "I have come here as a nursing orderly to heal wounds. This will be a period of governor's service, not governor's rule." In pursuit of his adamant refusal to build bridges with the people he flung open the gates of Raj Bhawan in freezing Srinagar where people lined up in defiance of terrorist threats to air their grievances—much to the annoyance of Delhi which urged him to retreat to the winter capital in Jammu. In a determined bid to throttle the political process he dissolved the Assembly—a hated symbol of 1987's rigged elections—and announced elections within six months "to enable the alienated people to join the electoral process".

Illustration by PRANAB DUTTA

And he expressed his happiness over the killing of innocents by security forces in a letter to Mohammad Yusuf Khan whose son Shabir was killed in crossfiring: "I could not sleep last night. Let us pray to God Almighty to make us see the path of peace and sanity, in which no policeman is seen on the streets." And ah! how he must have pleased the BJP when in a private meeting in February he admonished a representation of Kashmiri Pundits as cowards for running away from Srinagar; and creating a job programme under which 7,000 Muslim youths would be recruited into the Border Security Force.

And what a brilliant innings Mr Mukarji had as a softie. He was so soft that killings in encounters—he prefers to call them "genuine encounters"—rose to record heights in Punjab. So committed was he to rolling back the repressive police raj in the state that he saw as his first duty, by his own admission, "reversing the balance" in favour of the security forces "against the militants" and sharpening the cutting edge of the security forces. So committed was he to the liberal line that he opposed the entry into his administration of officials known to favour the restoration of civilian administration, and stuck tenaciously with officials and policemen associated with corruption and the police option—the very lobby opposed to starting any dialogue with militants. And the darling of the India International Centre's liberal circuit refused to commit himself to assembly elections.

In this Tale of Two Governors, Mr Orwell, who was the hardliner and who was the softliner?

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WEST BENGAL

Danger Signals

Series of jolts for CPI(M)

DESPITE Chief Minister Jyoti Basu's ever-popular appeal, the CPI(M)'s image in West Bengal has always been subject to sudden slumps which jolt the Congress(I) into defiant activity and force leader-writers to warn the CPI(M) and the ruling Left Front of the dangers of complacency.

Last fortnight witnessed such a phase. It began with the collapse of the Bangur residential complex in Calcutta killing four people. The Calcutta Corporation allowed the building to be occupied even before a completion certificate was given. As the public outcry against corruption in the CPI(M)-controlled Calcutta Corporation reached a crescendo, even Mayor Kamal Basu admitted that his relatives had to bribe officials to get their building plans sanctioned.

Another indication of the CPI(M)'s waning popularity was the May 27 municipal poll when the Congress(I) unexpectedly captured six municipalities from the CPI(M). The Left Front got 50 and the Congress(I) 16. There was a tie in four and mixed results in another four. The results were in no small measure attributed to the schisms within the Left Front partners.

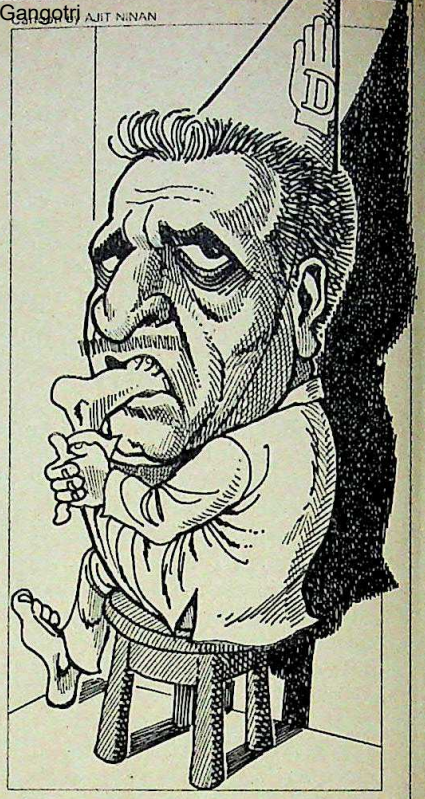
Said Ashok Ghosh, general secretary of the Forward Bloc: "What worries us is that while there is unity at the top, in the districts the Front partners are fighting each other." Earlier, the Forward Bloc Minister of Agriculture, Kamal Guha accused the CPI(M) of conspiring with the Congress(I) to defeat the Forward Bloc candidates.

The Left Front received another blow soon. On May 30, a health officer Anita Dewan, UNICEF's Renu Ghosh and colleague Uma Ghosh, travelling in a government vehicle, were stripped and attacked by a mob. Dewan and the driver Abani Naiya died in hospital. Though the police suggested that the mob suspected the officers to be child-lifters, chances are the officers were targeted for trying to take action against people involved in racketeering in medicines.

Chief Minister Jyoti Basu announced a judicial inquiry after an initial comment that "incidents like this are commonplace". All this gave the Congress(I) another chance to demand his resignation and to convert the incident into an issue for the prestigious Calcutta Corporation polls scheduled for June 17. Sneered WBPCC(I) President A.B.A. Ghani Khan Choudhury: "Free poll is impossible as long as Jyoti Basu is chief minister." Added party General Secretary Somen Mitra: "Whether we'll be allowed to bring about a change in the Calcutta Corporation only Jyoti Basu can tell."

To add to the CPI(M)'s woes, the state has been facing an acute power shortage that has been crippling industry. Even a company like Bata has retrenched 200 workers. Also, the Government has hinted that it will be raising transport fares which the Congress(I) is bound to oppose. For the CPI(M), it promises to be a politically torrid summer. —UTTAM SENGUPTA

Anti-corruption protest in Calcutta



K.K. TEWARY

Lip Service

Reprimand does not chasten

THERE is, as the saying goes, many a slip twixt the cup and the lip. More so when the lip in question is attached to the irrepressible K.K. Tewary, former Union minister. As long as the Congress(I) was in power, Tewary's colourful vocabulary was allowed free rein. But last fortnight, he finally got his comeuppance—a reprimand by the Rajya Sabha for his outburst against Vice-President Shankar Dayal Sharma who is also chairman of the upper House.

For most politicians, the reprimand—the first time a former minister has been hauled up—should have been a chastening experience. But characteristically, Tewary emerged unrepentant and announced: "They took me to the bar of the House and the House stood at the bar of history."

Being back in the limelight after his defeat in the Lok Sabha elections seems to have put Tewary back in form. Samples: "V.P. Singh is the trendy fraud who has duped, deceived and defrauded the nation." Deputy Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha Najma Heptulla is someone he knows

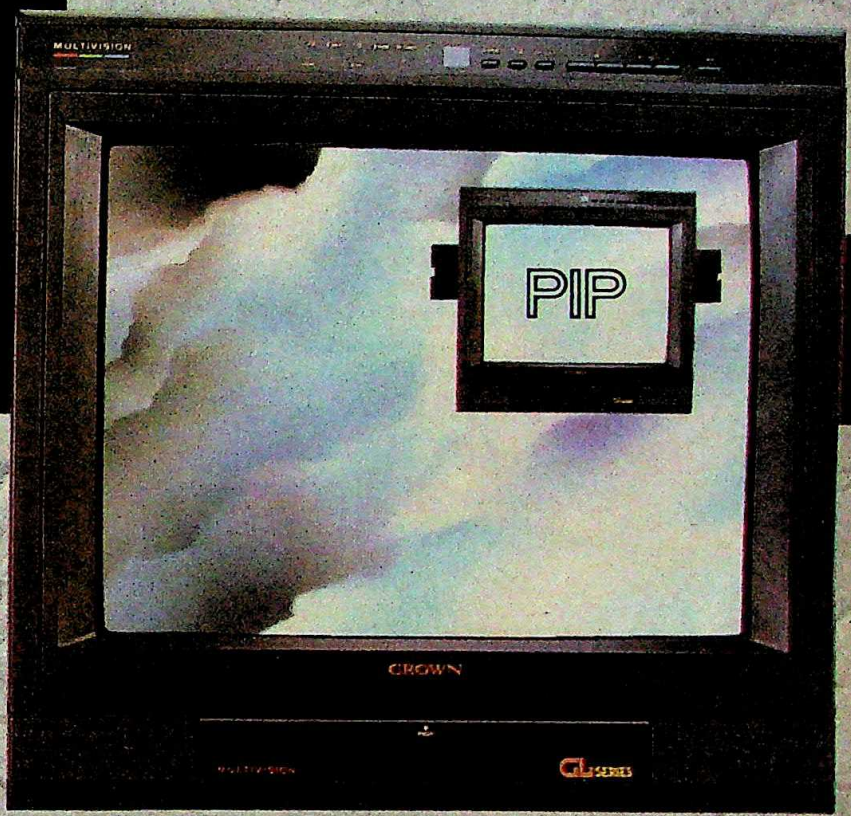
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

ya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CROWN MULTIVISION.

FOR THE PEOPLE WHO NEED TWO TELEVISIONS AND WANT TO BUY ONLY ONE.

Because your family has more than one member, Crown Multivision allows you to enjoy two programmes. On the same screen. At the same time. Yes, its almost like owning two televisions. Because Crown Multivision doesn't just give you a picture-in-picture, it also gives you sound-in-picture. And much, much more. A 3 freeze facility, stereo-sound and a special comb-filter that creates the clearest picture possible. Features that make the Crown Multivision unique. What's more, the thoughtfulness doesn't



end here. Crown Multivision has its controls where they belong. Right on top.

The next time you want to watch cricket and your wife wants to watch Mahabharat, don't argue. Just get yourself a Crown Multivision. Contact your nearest Crown dealer for a free demonstration, today.

CROWN

M U L T I V I S I O N

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Sarayu Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

200 EMPLOYEES WALK OUT OF BOMBAY OIL.

What's more startling is that all 200 of them are joining a new company called Marico. How did this happen? And why?

Bombay Oil has formed a new company — Marico Industries. And their entire Consumer Products Division of 200 people now works for Marico.

Mr. Mariwala, one of the board members, clarified an important issue. "Marico is a wholly owned 100% subsidiary of Bombay Oil. The Board of Directors for both remains the same."

Why is a totally new company being formed? "The idea is to give a new thrust to the consumer products business. As a company, Marico will have greater autonomy than before. So it can independently make business decisions."

Mr. Arun Kaul, the ex-Marketing Manager of Bombay Oil, now the Marketing Manager of Marico, was jubilant: "This is a great way to start a new company! With brands that are already leaders — Saffola and Parachute. Saffola is known for the marketing history it made with its 'good-for-the-heart' safflower (kardi) oil. The other brand, Parachute, has breakthroughs to its credit too. It's the first strong brand in what was till recently a commodity market. And enjoys a strong consumer franchise."

'A deliberate, planned move,' says insider.

Another advantage Marico has is the ready-made strengths of its parent company. Like the distribution network of 2 lakh retail outlets and 1200 distributors. Financially, it is as good as any blue chip company. It has a turnover of nearly Rs. 100 crores. Sales have grown at 25% per annum over the last 4 years (compounded growth rate).

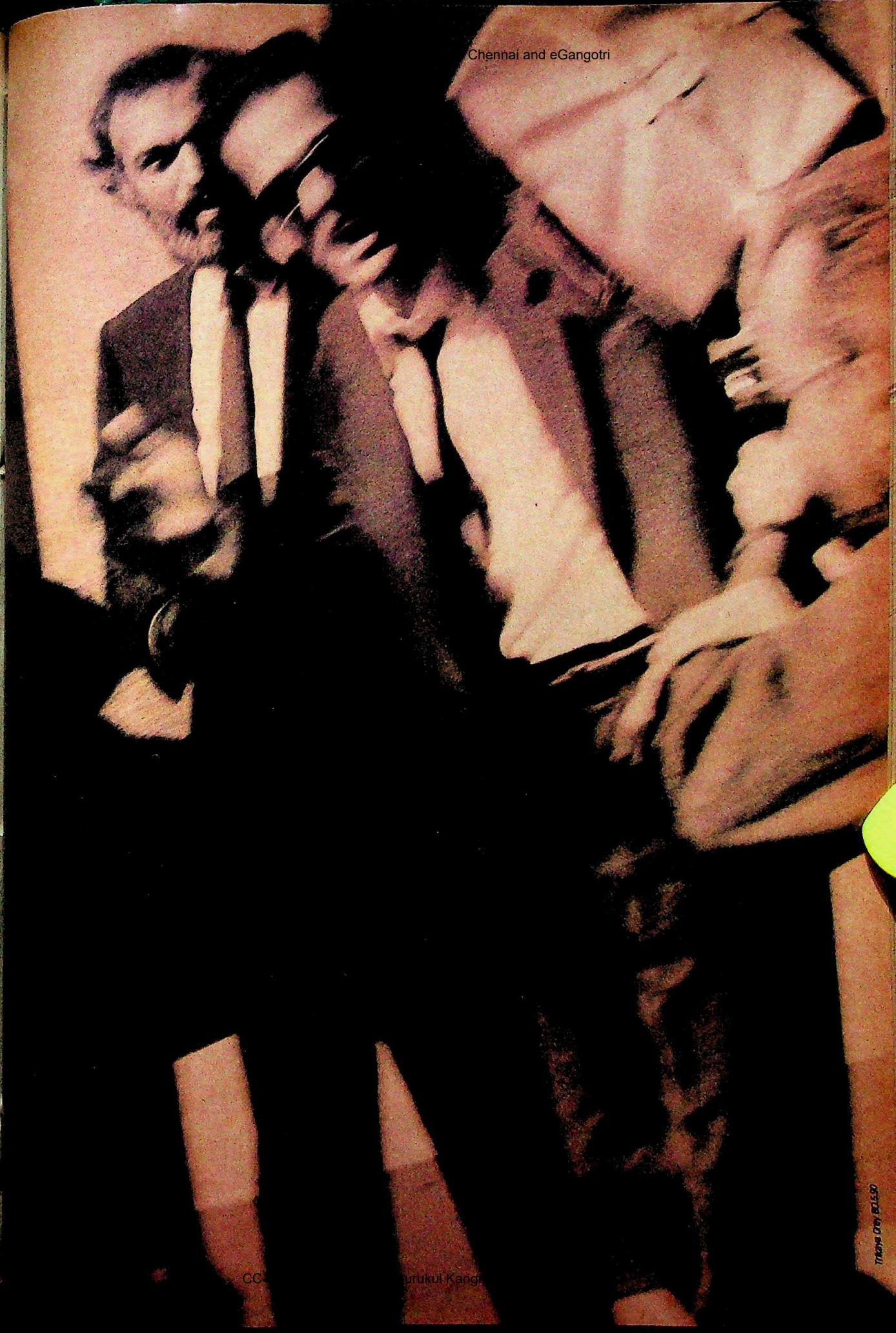
What are Marico's future plans? Mr. Mariwala admitted that a lot of changes were in the offing. "We've just acquired additional manufacturing facilities. We're opening an R & D centre in Bombay for product and packaging development. Launching Sweekar Refined Sunflower Oil nationally. And moving to an office in a new location in Bombay!

"An entire line of activity will get more prominence now: new products. Within the next year, we will be introducing two new products." Mr. Mariwala was tight-lipped about Marico's new product plans. "It's likely to be in the range of consumer goods," he said, and laughed.

MARICO
A SUBSIDIARY OF THE BOMBAY OIL INDUSTRIES LTD.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Chennai and eGangotri



ditional
cilities.
R & D
ay for
ckaging
nching
nflower
moving
a new
y!
of acti-
romin-
oducts.
ear, we
wo new
riwala
about
t plans.
e range
he said,

CC-0. Gurukul Kangri

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Garware Paints comes out with flying colours in Europe.

Garware Paints has been honoured with the prestigious Arch of Europe Gold Star Award for international excellence, at a function held recently in Madrid, Spain.

The Arch of Europe Gold Star Award recognises Garware Paints' contribution to the world business fraternity; its high standards in quality and service; and its professionalism and performance.

All this is reflected in Garware's range of superior quality paints comprising: Garcoat Petals Premium Wall Finish, Garcoat Acrylic Emulsion, Garcoat Supergloss Synthetic Enamel, Garcoat Washable Distemper and Garcoat Auto Lacquer. Products which have helped Garware Paints don international colours.

If you would like to know more about Garware's household and industrial paints, write to Garware Paints at the address given below.

Paints that inspire trust and confidence

GARWARE
गरवारे

Garware Paints Ltd.
401, Marine Chambers,
43, Sir V. Thackersey Marg, Bombay 400 020.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"embarrassingly well and I say all I know...." Opposition leader in the House Shiv Shankar "obviously believes in two sets of norms for he did not hesitate to take his son in appeal to the courts when he was charged for contempt by the Andhra Assembly".

Tewary's return to the limelight came after the chairman had indicted Congress(I) members for their rowdy behaviour. Obviously feeling left out of the action, Tewary emerged to "defend my party". The defence took the form of an attack on the chairman, whom Tewary accused of an "utterly outrageous and totally impermissible outburst". For good measure he added that Sharma's "hysterical rantings have not served the cause of democracy as his simulated dramatics were clearly aimed at gagging the only opposition party and its members".

The statement led to an uproar in the House and finally it was decided to reprimand Tewary. After his attempts to evade the order through the Supreme Court failed, Tewary eventually turned up on June 1.

He was literally put in a dock while Heptulla read out the reprimand which, apart from censuring Tewary, stated that a more severe penalty was not being administered in the hope that he would repent.

That hope has obviously not been realised. "I was punished because I am K.K. Tewary," is his refrain. Quite.

—SEEMA MUSTAFA

BOTTOMLINE BY D. BUNKER

PA Parleys

WITH V.P. Singh having offered to quit for the 365th time (under astrological advice from Vinod Pande), the prospect of a national government is looming larger. With the corridors of power echoing to the foot-tapping, back-stabbing sounds of intrigue, here's a corridor-eye view of the proceedings.

Ist PA: I thought the World Cup was next week.

2nd PA: It is.

Ist PA: Then why are all the *mantris* watching TV?

2nd PA: You must be new to South Block. They are all waiting for V.P. Singh to issue a statement at Palam that he will step down in favour of a national government.

Ist PA: How do you know? His plane hasn't landed.

2nd PA: You really must get your act together if you want to last. We PAs generally know more about the political goings-on than the *mantris* themselves.

Ist PA: Sorry. I still can't understand how you know about a statement the prime minister hasn't made yet.

2nd PA: From the PM's PA of course. He called me from Malaysia. We PAs stick together.

3rd PA (joining in): I just spoke to Jyoti Basu's PA. He says Basu has been getting phone calls all day from the Jan Morcha people and feelers from the Congress(I) on whether he will be a consensus PM. He is faxing me the transcripts of the phone conversations.

2nd PA: What was Basu's response?

3rd PA: He is agreeable if the BJP is kept out.

2nd PA: Good. Leak the transcripts to Advani's PA. That will really muddy the waters.

1st PA: What's going on? You people are actually playing politics. Whose side are you on?

3rd PA: Our own, of course. It's very simple. The more unstable our leaders get, the more secure our jobs.

2nd PA: What's new from Chandra Shekhar's PA?

3rd PA: He says his boss is still unsure of his support for PM. He suggests we call George and ask him to call Chandra Shekhar. He doesn't have to say anything, just enquire about his health. In the present climate, a wink is as good as a nod. Chandra Shekhar will presume he has Rajiv's backing.

2nd PA: Excellent. See to it. Meanwhile, I'll call Namboodiripad's PA and get him to call Devi Lal's man and subtly hint that the Left might support him for PM.

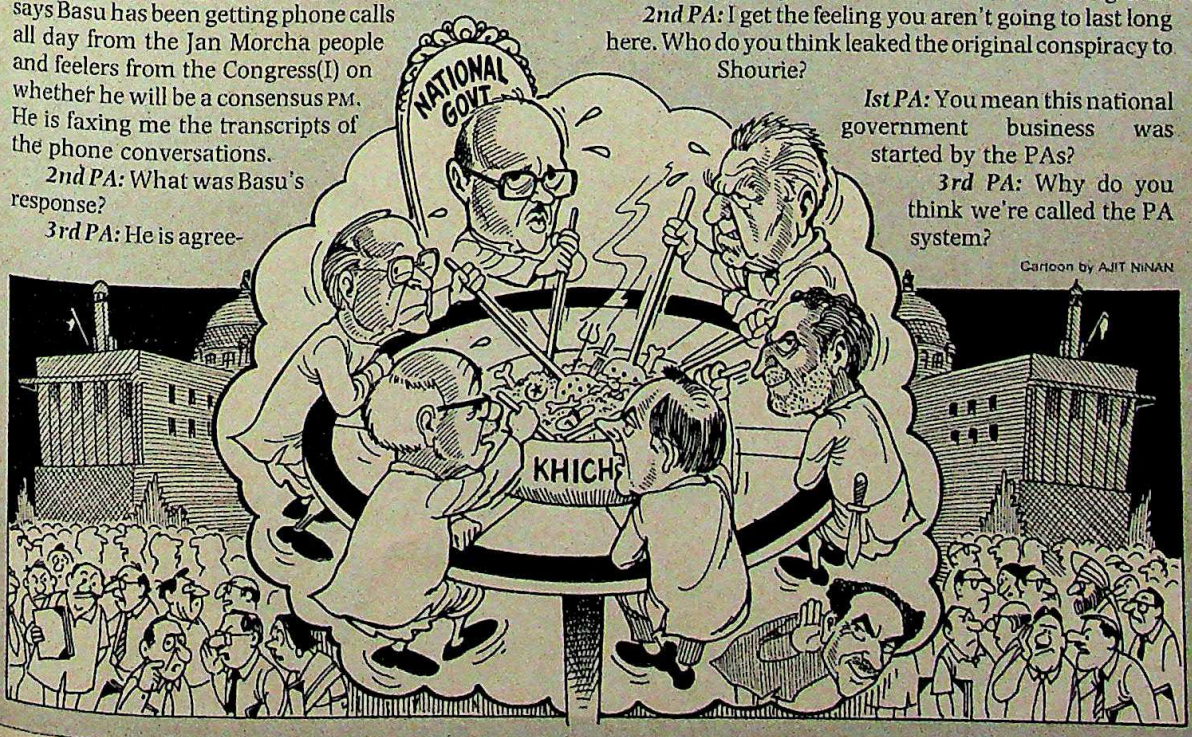
3rd PA: I think it's time to start the ball rolling on the final solution we had worked out. Get all the PAs working on the idea of suggesting to their bosses the idea for a revolving PM. Say six months for each term.

Ist PA (outraged): I don't believe I'm hearing this.

2nd PA: I get the feeling you aren't going to last long here. Who do you think leaked the original conspiracy to Shourie?

Ist PA: You mean this national government business was started by the PAs?

3rd PA: Why do you think we're called the PA system?



Cartoon by AJIT NINAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

N.T. RAMA RAO

In the Dock

Panel probes abuse of power

ON becoming chief minister of Andhra Pradesh in 1983, N.T. Rama Rao, had declared: "My life is an open book and I will take only a rupee as salary." Now, six months out of office, the 'open book' is suffering close scrutiny from a three-man panel of the state cabinet. And, it makes for controversial reading.

Panel chairman N. Srinivasulu Reddy and the other members are examining files relating to a staggering 156 charges made against Rama Rao while he was chief minister, some of which are being contested in court.

According to the panel's findings Rama Rao made the Government spend Rs 3.87 crore on him on various counts. These include the maintenance of three houses, the purchase of two buses and three cars, four refrigerators, a deep freezer and even a washing machine. Appallingly, expenses of Rs 16.33 lakh incurred on the *muhurat* of the bilingual film *Brahmarishi Viswamitra* in June last year were also billed to the state. Moreover, Rs 84.93 lakh of government money was spent on organising the party mahanadus.

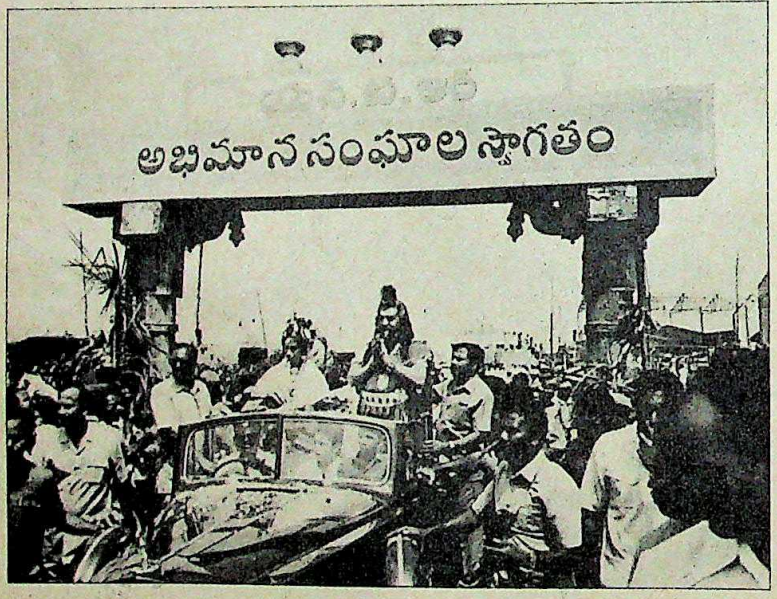
He also spent an incredible Rs 2.09 crore on beefing up his security. Moreover, on becoming chief minister Rama Rao had converted his two-storyed house in Hyderabad into his official residence. This enabled him to draw a house rent allowance and to pick up another Rs 5,000 a year from the Government for maintenance. During the seven years he was chief minister, Rama Rao built two *kuteerams* on his own lands at Nacharam and Gandipet on the city's fringe and made the state spend Rs 16.82 lakh on their maintenance.

Another glaring example of abuse of power for family gain is the October 31, 1988, government order (G.O. 733) exempting vacant or agriculture land up to five acres within the peripheral areas of five urban agglomerations from the urban land ceiling law. Wrote state Advocate General R. Venugopal Reddy: "The order is intended to protect the illegal exemption obtained by the family of Rama Rao." The family's Ramakrishna Cine Studio's application to the Andhra Pradesh Film Development Corporation for a term loan of Rs 25 lakh for the construction of a dubbing theatre and a later clarification made it apparent that the ownership of the land at Nacharam was "perfected" by virtue of G.O. 733.

Srinivasulu Reddy hopes the panel will be able to present the final report in two months to the state cabinet. In a feeble counter, Telugu Desam Propaganda Secretary G. Muddukrishnama Naidu says: "It is only a political stunt to malign Anna (Rama Rao)." But it is easier to believe N.Srinivasulu Reddy who says: "The spartan style of the sanyasi did not extend beyond the saffron clothes he wore."

—AMARNATH K. MENON

BABJI/JANATA STUDIO

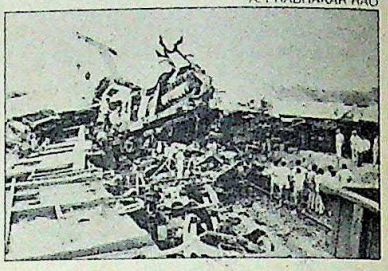


NTR as Viswamitra: grandiose lifestyle

SIGN POSTS

KILLED: Thirty-five people when a Bombay-bound train collided with a goods train near Secunderabad. What added to the tragedy was the fact that head-on collisions are a very rare occurrence in Indian Railways.

A. PRABHAKAR RAO



APPOINTED: Umer Farooq, the 16-year-old son of recently slain Mirwaiz Maulvi Farooq, as the new Mirwaiz of Kashmir. He is the youngest person to hold this title.

APPOINTED: Prem Shankar Jha, as press adviser to Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh. Jha, who will hold the rank of a special secretary, just quit as editor of the Ambani-owned *Business and Financial Observer* to join the Government. His first assignment, a successful one by all accounts, was on the prime minister's recent trip to Malaysia.

INCLUDED: The Bombay Natural History Society, the Kerala Sastra Sahitya Parishad, Dr Dhrubajyoti Ghosh and Dr Gunavantrai Oza, in the UN's Global 500 roll of honour for protection of environment in India.

SELECTED: Kiran S. Kedalaya, 15-year-old of Indian origin, to represent the US in the international mathematical Olympiad.

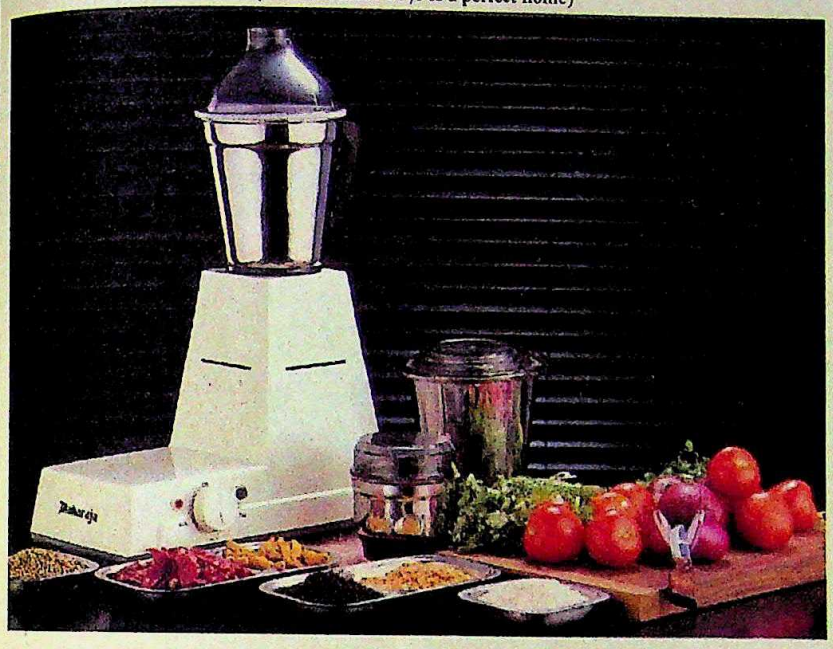
GRANTED: To Dhirendra Brahmachari, head of the Vishwayatan Yogashram, anticipatory bail by the Delhi High Court in a cheating case registered against him in New Delhi by over 90 students. The petition says that a yoga course advertised by the Yogashram in August last year was not recognised by the Government as claimed in the advertisment.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Maharaja recipe for the perfect mixer-grinder

(And five more ways to a perfect home)



Whatever the house chore, there's a Maharaja for it. And no matter how big your workload is, Maharaja handles it better.

The five-course meal made easy

The Maharaja Mixer-Grinder. A heavy duty motor. An incredible 60 minutes non-stop running time. **Three jars** — to give each of your courses a special taste. A good-looking, unbreakable casing. And an indestructible motor coupling.

The health wave starts here

The Maharaja Juicer-Blender. A super-tough, super-fast motor and a handy self-cleaner.

Instant designer sandwiches

The supreme Sandwich Toaster. Futuristic design. Thermostatic auto cut-off.

Washing curtains without tears

The Maharaja Washaid. A powerhouse motor that can run 3 hours non-stop and clean anything from lace to curtains. Choice of wash, rinse and drying timings and actions. **Special buzz alarm. Castors.** And much more. In a rugged, scratchproof steel body.

Not a wrinkle in sight

The Maharaja Auto Iron. Instant heating facility. 3 variable temperatures. Super-efficient spray attachment. Shockproof body.

How to suck up dirt you didn't even know was there

The Maharaja Vacuum Cleaner. 30% more sucking power. Eight litre storage capacity. Impact-resistant ABS body on wheels.

Maharaja home products are designed with your needs in mind, to world standards. And we know, as you do, that its the little details that make a big difference. So the next time you're looking for a home appliance, pick one from the Maharaja range shown here. We guarantee it will be the beginning of a lifetime relationship.

For further enquiries :
Maharaja International Ltd. Post Box No. 2866
New Delhi. 110060

Maharaja WHITELINE
APPLIANCES

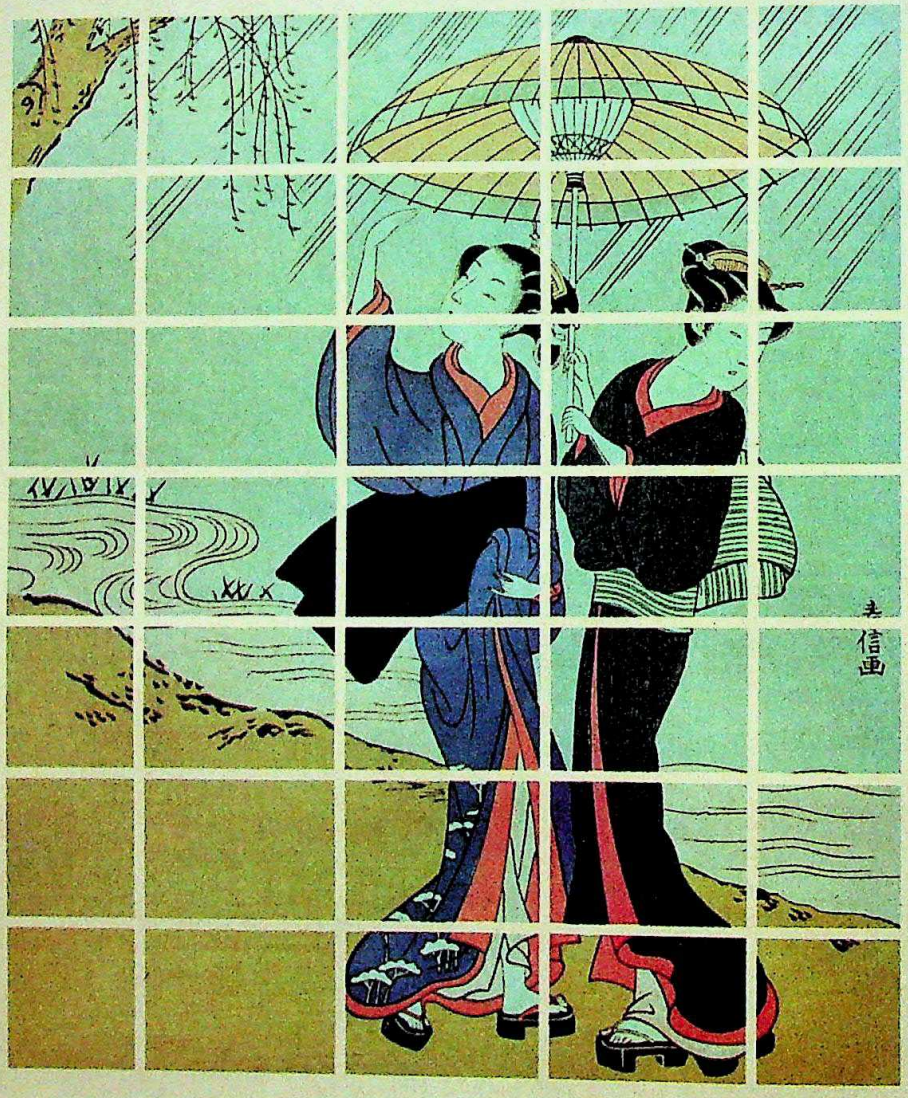
They'll go through anything to keep you happy.

Anthem/MIL/796/1A

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Japanese state-of-the-art.



VIDEOCON

AIR CONDITIONERS

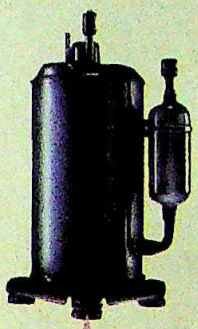
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Introducing Videocon Air Conditioners. Manufactured under D & D supply agreement with Matsushita Electric Company, Japan, the owners of brand name 'National'.

In technology that's state-of-the-art or in artisitc pursuits, the Japanese are born inventors, innovators.

Now, Videocon brings home Japanese expertise through air conditioners that incorporate the world's most advanced technology.



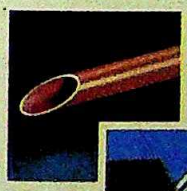
High Performance Rotary Compressor

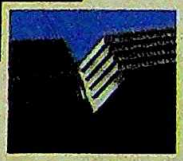
It's what separates the Videocon Air Conditioner from all other air conditioners in India. A compressor so compact, with cooling efficiency that's at par with International Standards. At the same time the design is tough enough to withstand Indian tropical conditions.

Super Quiet Operation

The Videocon Air Conditioner incorporates an ultra thin heat exchanger and specially designed sirocco fan, propeller fan, fan motor and rotary compressor. What's more, the rotary compressor is mounted on a vibration-absorbing rubber base and the entire air conditioner housed in heavy insulation.

All this gives you a whisper quiet operation.



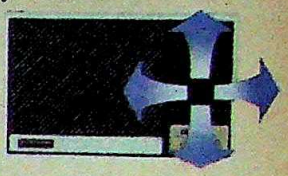


High-Energy Efficiency Design

Engineered to operate on as little energy as possible, it can save on electricity bills. All this being possible due to the Louver Fins, Grooved Copper Tubing and the Rotary Compressor.

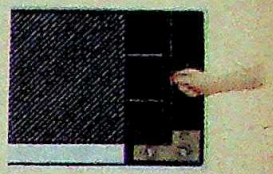
4-Way Air Deflection System

At the touch of a switch, you can control the air direction from side to side. While the louvers adjust the vertical air flow.



One Touch Air Filter

Quick, easy sliding of the filter, without removing the grill facilitates cleaning. You don't have to rely on a technician.



Super Service

The Videocon factory-trained technicians posted in every city can give you service that's most prompt and reliable.

So, add a touch of Japanese art in your home. Make room for the Air Conditioner most advanced and elegant.

Yes, I am impressed with the features of the Videocon Air Conditioner.
Please send me more information on the product.

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Organisation: _____

Address: _____

Mail Coupon to: **Videocon International Ltd.**
Post Box No. 11741
Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021.

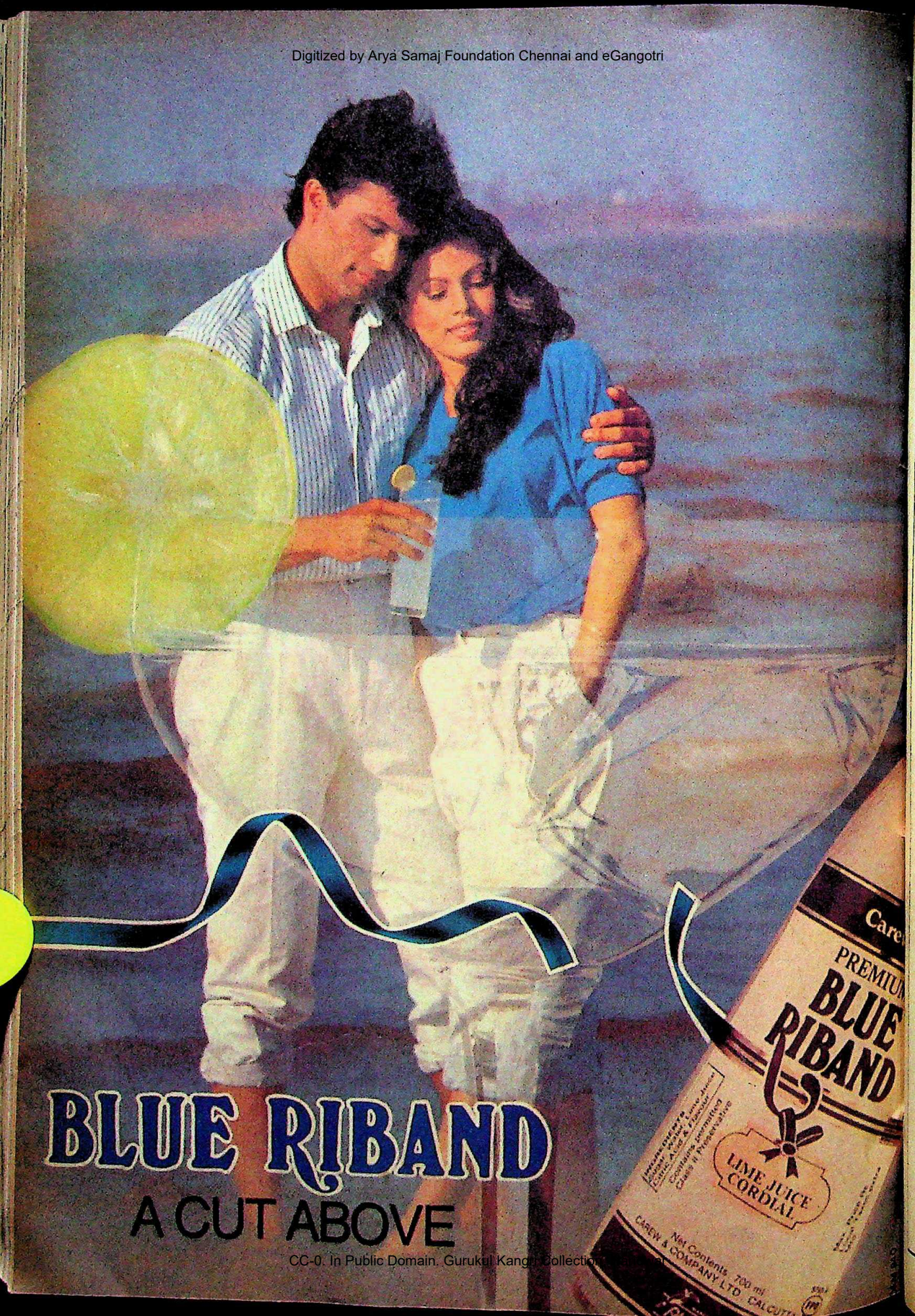
1.5 ton Air Conditioners in Ivory White and Wood Grain finish.

1 year warranty

Exceptional. Sensational. So National.

CC-0. Prof. Satya Vrat Shastri Collection, Jammu. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



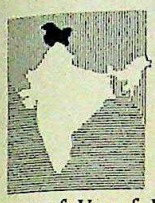
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JAMMU & KASHMIR

Arrest Fiasco

Episode proves embarrassing



THE arrest could not have been more ill-timed. Barely had Governor Girish Chandra Saxena settled into Raj Bhawan in Srinagar when the arrest of Yusuf Jameel, the Srinagar-based correspondent of *The Telegraph*, the BBC and Reuter, made banner headlines in the Indian and international press. Coming as it did on the heels of the Mirwaiz firing and Jagmohan's controversial ouster, the Jameel issue was the last thing the Government wanted.

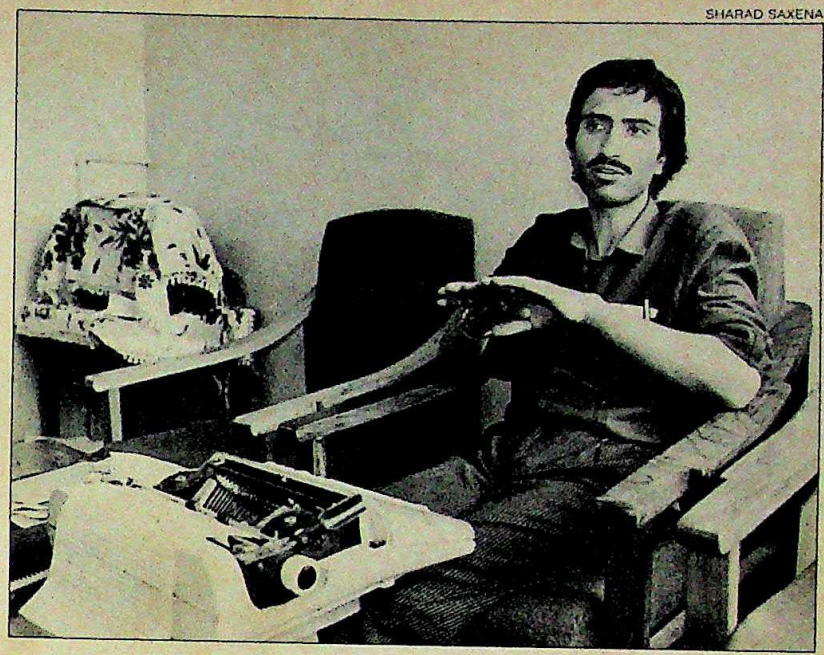
What added to the embarrassment was that Saxena and government spokesmen in Delhi vehemently denied reports by Jameel's family that he'd been picked up by the security forces and not kidnapped by militants.

There were, therefore, plenty of red faces in Raj Bhawan and South Block when Jameel, a highly-respected journalist, was released two days later after it turned out that Indian Army officers were responsible for the fiasco.

What the sequence of events revealed is the total lack of coordination between the security forces. At 7.20 a.m. on June 2, Major Hawa Singh and Lieutenant P. Saxena from the 11th Gorkha regiment knocked at Jameel's door while soldiers surrounded the house. Said Jameel after his release: "The officers asked me to accompany them as they wanted to enquire about a person they did not identify. I asked them if they were arresting me and the major said '*aisa hi samajh lijiye*'."

Jameel was taken to the transit camp in Srinagar's Badami Bagh cantonment area. En route, Lt. Saxena took out a piece of paper and started firing questions. The first question: "Do you know Zafar Meraj?" (another Srinagar-based journalist who played an active role in securing the release of Rubaiya Sayeed, daughter of Home Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed.) The lieutenant wanted to know how many times Meraj had gone to Pakistan. "I told him that as far as I know he had visited Pakistan in 1985 along with his mother," said Jameel later. The officer retorted: "I want to know how many times he has crossed the border clandestinely." Jameel says that the lieutenant threatened to use "other methods" unless he came out with the truth.

SHARAD SAXENA



Jameel after his release: troubling questions

Jameel's arrest has put the army in Kashmir, highly suspect as it already is among the local populace, under uncomfortable scrutiny.

It quickly became apparent that Jameel was arrested by the two officers to find out about his and Meraj's links with militants. Soldiers in fact regularly accused him of being a "Pakistani spy". The officers, with the permission of their commanding officer Lt-Colonel Bhanwar Singh, arrested the journalist on the basis of information provided by one Ayub, who named Jameel and Meraj as his "contact men". Ayub had been arrested along with 16 others while trying to cross the border.

After 30 hours in army custody, Jameel was released. But more than the embarrassment for the state administration is the fact that the arrest has given teeth to the widespread complaint in Kashmir that many innocent people are being picked up by the security forces and illegally detained for long periods of time. Says Jameel: "My arrest has strengthened this view. I am getting publicity because I am a journalist but what about the scores of common men?"

More worrying is the lack of communication and coordination within the security set-up. The over enthusiastic officers had obviously acted on their own without the sanction of army headquarters. The Jameel case has now put into uncomfortable focus the army's role in the state. On whose orders did the officers act? Why did the unit commanding officer not inform headquarters? For the army has the power of arrest and seizure but only after seeking prior consent and informing the civil authorities.

A high-powered court of inquiry headed by Major-General Pranob Dutt has been instituted to go into the incident. Governor Saxena told INDIA TODAY: "The officers acted without clearance and without jurisdiction. They should have followed the procedures. A journalist of repute was involved and the higher authorities should have been informed."

While the court of inquiry is expected to indict the officers, the governor will now have to work towards re-establishing the bona fides of the security forces, highly suspect as they already are among the local populace.

—HARINDER BAWEJA in Srinagar

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

भारतीय निर्यात-आयात बैंक
EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF INDIA

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS: APRIL 1989 - MARCH 1990

GENERAL FUND AT YEAR END 31ST MARCH 1990	Rs(mn.)	Change over previous year* %
-TOTAL ASSETS	17243	16%
of which LOANS,ADVANCES & BILLS	11178	20%
-OWNED FUNDS	3327	11%
of which RESERVES	989	24%
-BORROWED FUNDS	11814	15%
-GUARANTEES OUTSTANDING	5969	11%
FOR THE YEAR APRIL 1989 - MARCH 1990		
-TOTAL INCOME	1376	23%
-NET INCOME (After Interest, Depreciation,Provisions)	272	20%
FUNDED OPERATIONS		
-SANCTIONS	9550	12%
-DISBURSEMENTS	8878	22%

* For comparison purpose previous year's (January 1988 to March 1989) figures have been annualised

HEADQUARTERS : Centre One, 21st Floor, World Trade Centre, Cuffe Parade, Bombay 400 005.
Phone : 215272.Cable : EXIM INDIA. Telex : 85255 EXIM IN. Fax : 2871075.

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES IN INDIA:
NEW DELHI : Tower 1, Eighth Floor,Jeevan Bharati Building,124 Connaught Circus,New Delhi 110 001.Phone: 3326375/6254/6625. Telex: 031-61417. EXIM IN, Cable: EXIM DEL. Fax: 3322758.
CALCUTTA : 5A & 5B Park Plaza,71,Park Street,Calcutta 700 016. Phone: 292957/2730/3416. Telex: 021-4285/5271. Cable: EXIM CAL .Fax: 299357.
MADRAS: TNSC Bank Building, 4th Floor, 233 NSC Bose Road, George Town, Madras 600 001. Phone: 585801. Telex: 041-6346 EXIM IN. Cable: EXIM MAS. Fax: 583905
BOMBAY: Maker Chambers IV, 8th Floor,222 Nariman Point , Bombay 400 021. Phone: 230761. Telex: 4615 EXIM IN

REPRESENTATIVE OFFICES OVERSEAS :
ABIDJAN: 01 B.P.3849 Abidjan 01,Cote d'Ivoire. Phone: 213921/80. Telex: 22961 EXIMAN Cl. Fax: 210757
SINGAPORE: 10, Collyer Quay,# 15-06 Ocean Building, Singapore 0104. Phone: 532-6464. Telex: RS-42882 EXIM RS. Cable: INDIA EXIM Singapore Fax: 5352131.
WASHINGTON D.C. : 1735 I (Eye) Street, N W Suite 517, Washington D.C. 20006 U.S.A. Phone: (202)223-3238/39. Telex: 897-015 UD.Fax: 7858487.

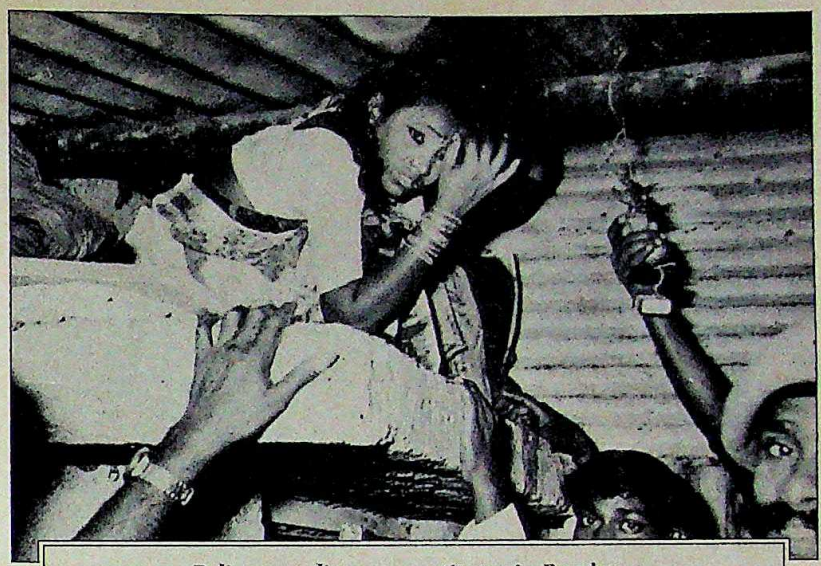
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PROSTITUTES

Sad Ending

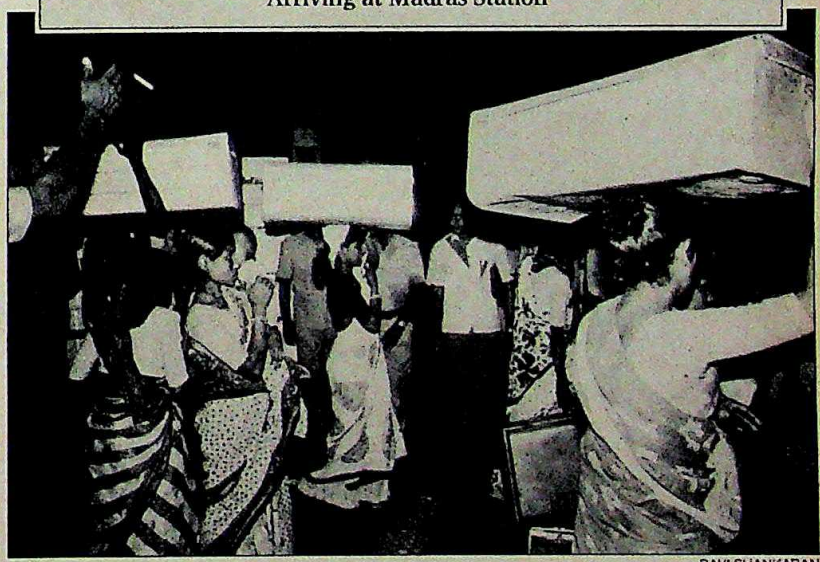
AIDS scare hampers rescue



Police rounding up prostitutes in Bombay

The prostitutes—60 per cent—who've tested HIV positive in preliminary tests will have to be sent to remand homes, not to their families.

Arriving at Madras Station



RAVI SHANKARAN

IN the end it was a fairy tale that went awry. But for unexpected misfortune, the well-planned move by the Tamil Nadu Police and Savdhan, a social service organisation, to rescue prostitutes and return them to their families would have ushered in a quiet social revolution.

After detailed preparation the Tamil Nadu Police and Savdhan managed to rescue about 1,000 Tamil prostitutes from dingy dens in Bombay. But with almost 60 per cent of the prostitutes who were taken to Madras allegedly testing positive to the dreaded HIV virus—those with this virus could possibly develop AIDS in about eight years and can transmit the virus—their dreams of being reunited with their families were temporarily shattered.

However for Savdhan, begun in Bombay in 1983, and its founder Vinod Gupta, a former MLC who has been scouring Bombay's red-light areas for seven years doing a seemingly hopeless job of reforming prostitutes, the rescue operation proved a major stride. Over the last two years Savdhan's volunteers had discovered that a large number of women from southern states, particularly Tamil Nadu, had been lured to Bombay brothels. They contacted the Tamil Nadu Police to examine the possibilities of rescuing these women. Says Gupta: "Our concern was for the girls who had been abducted from their homes. They begged to be freed."

Then started what the Madras Police Commissioner Rajasekharan Nair terms a "very carefully planned operation, the first of its kind and magnitude". Nair deputed 67 personnel, including 22 women for the seven-hour operation. Nine hundred and eighty three girls including some children and more than 200 eunuchs were rounded up.

Of these about 100 preferred to stay on; the rest were sent by a special train aptly named Mukti (Freedom) Express to Madras. The state Government announced a Rs 7.18-lakh scheme to rehabilitate the women who were initially kept in the open-air jail in Puzhal. But before returning them to their families, the Government decided to put them through medical tests. That created a scare. Said Lakshmi, who'd been taken to Bombay 10 years ago: "I won't go for any test. They'll say I have AIDS and then I'll never see my family again."

That's precisely what happened. Avers Gupta: "Now they'll have to go into the government remand homes. If they're set free they'll spread the disease." The Government's rehabilitation offer still stands, but the prospect far from enthuses the women who fear an endless incarceration in the remand homes. Compounding the problem is the fact that there are already many women with suspected AIDS in remand homes in the state who've been agitating for release. Worse, the remand homes have space for no more than 700 women in all.

Yet, Savdhan is undeterred by the uncertain outcome. Says Mahesh Khandelwal, its secretary: "We are not going to stop such work. Our efforts now will be to get the Central Government to do something for prostitutes suffering from AIDS." If the success of their first rescue operation is any gauge, afflicted prostitutes can realistically hope for succour.

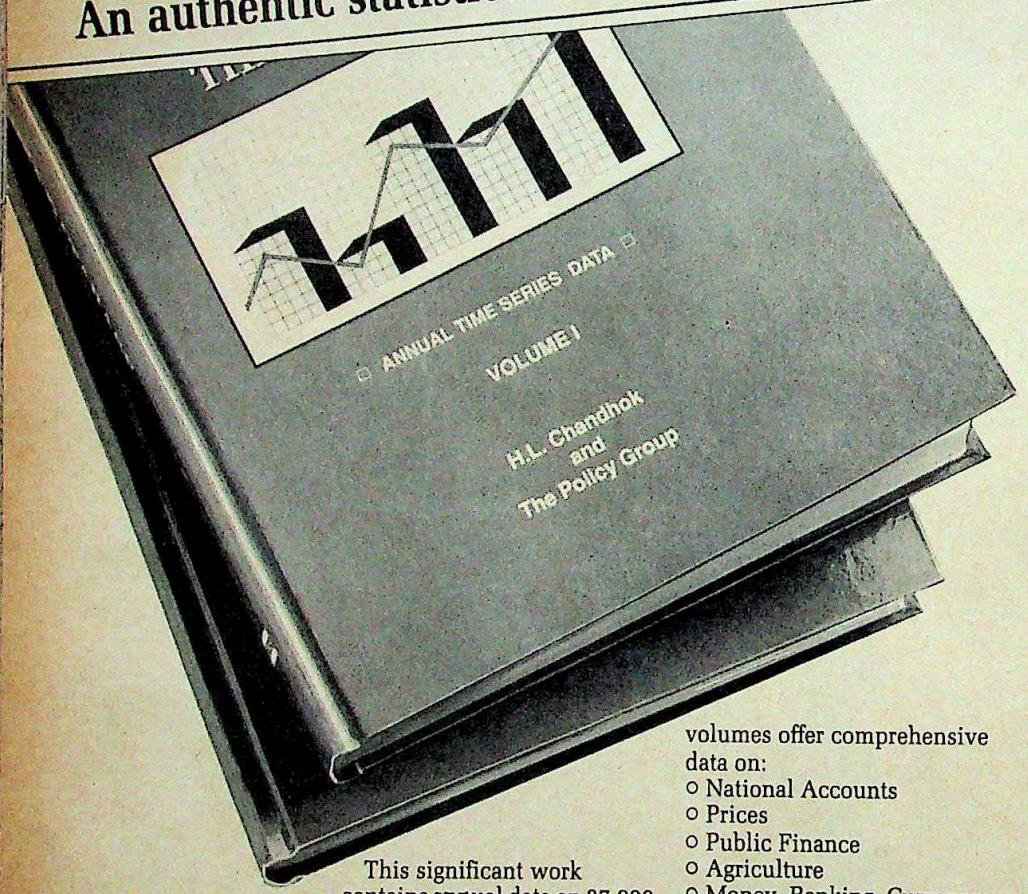
—KAVITHA SHETTY

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA DATABASE THE ECONOMY

An authentic statistical compendium on the Indian economy.



Now. Bridging an important gap in applied econometric research.

The two volumes of India Database: The Economy are a consolidated source for instant access to information on various aspects of the Indian economy, spanning a time period of four decades.

This significant work contains annual data on 27,000 series/variables collected from authoritative and official sources. Presented in a consistent and comparable form, it is a statistical profile of the aggregative and sectoral change and progress made under successive Plans. This is an invaluable aid to economists working on macro-econometric models for policy simulation, since the data provided helps build correlates to examine and analyse diverse aspects of the economy. But not just economists, these volumes represent a practical tool for industrialists, policy makers, bankers and the government – in fact, anyone who deals with any aspect of the economy.

Grouped into 25 sections in seven chapters, the two volumes offer comprehensive data on:

- National Accounts
- Prices
- Public Finance
- Agriculture
- Money, Banking, Currency and Coinage
- Foreign Trade and Balance of Payments
- Industry.

The Presentation includes:

- The growth of national income over the last four decades and its distribution across the States, among production sectors and between investment and savings.
- The measurement of inflation using appropriate price indices through time series data spanning forty years.
- The achievement of four decades of agricultural production analysed by crop, state and season.
- Monetary and fiscal developments viewed across the spectrum of the time frame.
- Key statistics highlighted through visual presentation-bar charts, pie charts and graphs.

India Database: The Economy is the result of the co-ordination between the computer skills of The Policy Group, a research organisation working in the area of applied econometric research headed by Mr. Prannoy Roy, and the data skills of the author, Mr. H.L. Chandhok. Providing complete computer back-up to Mr. Chandhok's work, the Policy Group has meticulously checked all the data in these volumes.

India Database: The Economy. Twin volumes priced at Rs. 1950/- (postage free).

Yet Another Exclusive From INDIA TODAY

Place your order now.

Yes. I would like to acquire the two volumes of India Database for Self/Institution/Office/Library.

Here is a Cheque*/Demand Draft* No..... for Rs. 1950/- (add Rs. 5/- for outstation cheques i.e. outside Delhi) drawn in favour of Living Media India Ltd.

Name _____

Address _____

_____

_____

_____

Note:

1. * Cheques/Drafts payable at Bombay, Madras, Calcutta & Delhi must be MICR only.
2. Mail your remittance & order to: Living Media India Ltd, P.B. No. 29, New Delhi 110 001
3. Those who require a proforma invoice for placing an order can write to us directly at the above address.

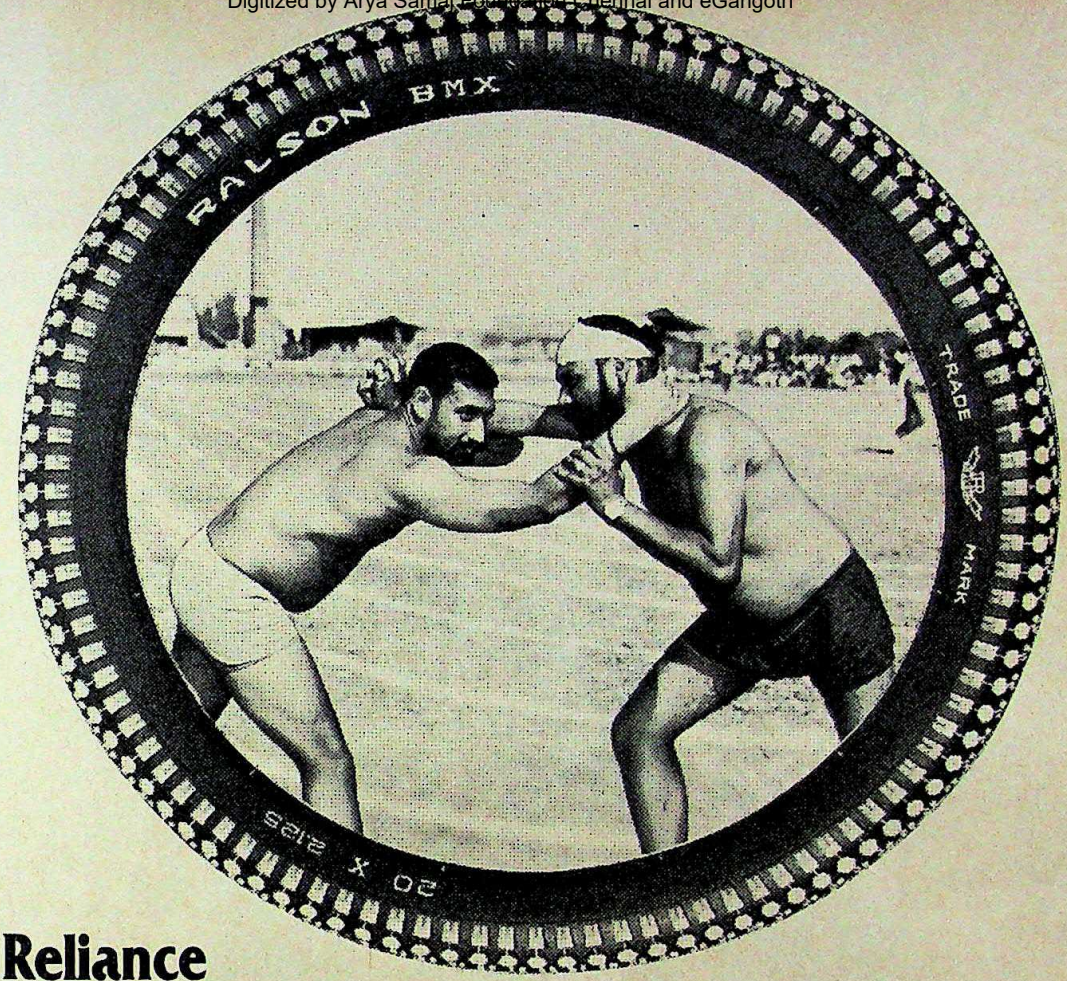
ALSO AVAILABLE THROUGH SELECT BOOKSHOPS.

Published by

LM BOOKS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Self Reliance
Creative Ingenuity
Productivity
That's RALSON

Making Bicycle Tyres is not Extraordinary, Extraordinary is making 60,000 Bicycle Tyres Daily. Exporting Bicycle Tyres is not Extraordinary, Extraordinary is Exporting Bicycle Tyres to Win **CAPEXIL AWARD**

Making **CARBON BLACK** is not Extraordinary, Extraordinary is making Carbon Black without Foreign Collaboration. Selling Carbon Black is not Extraordinary, Extraordinary is selling Carbon Black to manufacturers like Goodyear, J.K. etc.

RALSON, having done all these, is aiming even higher corporate heights. In pipe-line are a Carbon Black Project at Haldia and a new Tyre Plant at Ludhiana.

After Rs.100 Crores, can... crores be far behind.

THAT'S EXTRAORDINARY.

PAHALWAN MAMA JI KA BALWAN TYRE

RALSON (INDIA) LIMITED

Head Office : B-108, Mayapuri Phase-I, New Delhi-110 064
Ph : 591574, Telex : 031-76024 RALD IN, Fax : 5417745,
Regd. Office : Ralson Nagar, G.T. Road, Ludhiana-141 003
Ph : 71501-5, Fax : 71507 Telex : 0386-325 RLSN-IN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

RIL–APR/GROUP/9056

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MULAYAM SINGH YADAV

The Company He Keeps

Criminal associates embroil chief minister in controversy

THE politician-criminal nexus has long been the bane of Indian politics. But such relationships are normally clandestine. Uttar Pradesh's Mulayam Singh Yadav is however an exception. With typical gung-ho, he refuses to distance himself from friends who have repeatedly been implicated in serious criminal charges. The Meham fiasco may have made politicians wary of dealing with unsavoury associates, but not Yadav. Some of his own senior partymen express the fear that Yadav may wind up becoming another embarrassment for Prime Minister V.P. Singh.

If Yadav remains nonchalant about his criminal links *(see interview)*, it is partly because his political career has never suffered because of it. For instance in 1982, when V.P. Singh was Congress(I) chief minister of Uttar Pradesh, and Yadav an opposition leader, the state Government ordered a CID investigation into 117 charges which made Yadav out to be a mentor of criminals. Yadav claims he was given a clean chit, but curiously, the inquiry report has disappeared from official records.

There is no proof that Yadav has indulged in any criminal activities or that he has been directly used by his controversial friends to influence government decisions. But as Yadav's clout increases, his links with criminals are bound to be raked up by opponents. Some of his controversial associates:

Arun Shukla alias Annaa: The 34-year-old, category 'A' history sheeter of Lucknow, is described in police records as the head of a gang of 10, involved in 79 criminal cases since 1973. All the 10 gang members are on bail. Annaa himself is named in 40 cases of which 27 are under trial. In five he is charged with murder. He has been held under the Gangsters Act and under NSA.

Yet Yadav openly flaunts his relationship with Annaa. On March 30, he visited Annaa's residence to participate in his son's birthday celebrations. And in April, during Ramzan, Annaa organised three *iftars*, all of which were attended by Yadav. Besides, for two months before the general elections, Annaa had camped in Etawah district and campaigned for Yadav, moving around in jeeps with armed thugs.

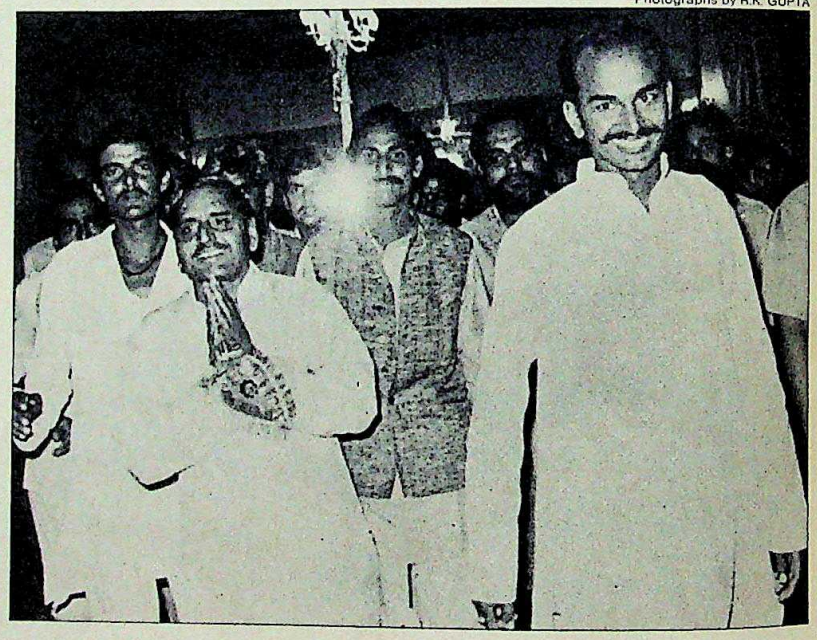
Says Annaa: "I met Mulayam Singh when he was nothing. He supported me when the Government, the police and the Congress were after me. Now, whenever he needs me, I will be there."

The relationship is by no means one-sided. According to police records, the second-in-command of Annaa's gang is his brother, Kailash Shanker Shukla alias Chottey, whose name appears in 10 cases. Yet, Chottey was given a Janata Dal ticket to contest the local corporation elections in September last year when Yadav was the party's state president. At the same time, Annaa's brother-in-law, S.C. Misra, was also given the party ticket. Both won. And in February this year, Misra won the deputy mayor's election in Lucknow.

At a press conference last month, the Lucknow SP A. Palniwell had said: "Many of the history sheets in the local police records are wrongly made. History sheets are made when a person is a dacoit or a very serious offender and not in the case of normal criminals." He said this in response to a query on another category 'A' criminal, Shiv Chandra Sahu, who was appointed the Janata Dal's Lucknow unit president in September last year. Sahu, who has been involved in 21 criminal cases—including murder—recently moved an application to close down his history sheet. Judging from the SP's statement, it is likely that Sahu's slate may soon be wiped clean. Should that happen, many believe it will be followed by withdrawal of cases against Annaa and his gang.

Especially since Annaa has all along claimed to be a victim of circumstances, declaring: "You people keep calling me a criminal. All I did was defend myself

Photographs by R.K. GUPTA



Yadav with Annaa: a long association

Despite Annaa being a category 'A' history sheeter, Yadav attended his son's birthday and three *iftars* organised by him in recent months.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

against the Ram Gopal gang which was backed by the Congress(I). They killed my brother. I had two options—get killed or fight. I decided to fight."

Kamlesh Pathak: He is an 'A' category history sheeter of Aurraiya who gained respectability by becoming a Janata Dal MLC and with whom Yadav shared the dais at a rally on June 2, where he apologised for Pathak's "mistakes". Says former MLC Abdul Wadood Khan: "I wasn't given a ticket again because people like Pathak had to be adjusted. If the chief minister is bent on criminalising politics what can anybody do?"

The 39-year-old Pathak's police record lists 16 cases, including murder. In 1976 Pathak was sentenced for life on a murder charge, but the high court let him off after a year. Pathak has a lot to be grateful to Yadav for. In 1986, he was held under NSA but a representation by Yadav got him released.

Even Pathak's henchmen ride high. Police records describe Swami Charan Chowdhry—who has eight cases against him—as Pathak's right hand man. In August last year, Yadav became the Dal's state unit president. The next month, Swami Charan was made Dal vice-president of Aurraiya. On March 21, one of Pathak's men, Gauri Shanker Awasthi, stabbed a youth in Aurraiya. That evening, sub-inspector D.K. Sharma raided Awasthi's house with an arrest warrant. According to police records, in retaliation, Swami Charan landed up at the police station, pointed a rifle at Sharma's head and threatened: "If you again put your hands on my men, your head'll be blown off."

The Etawah SSP Brij Lal asked the Circle Officer Ram Saran Verma to look into the incident. Consequently on March 31, a case of attempting to murder a police official on duty was lodged against Swami Charan. But two days later, Brij Lal received a telex from the state Home Department, saying: "Suspend inquiries. Case being transferred to CID." The upshot: to date neither Charan nor Awasthi have been arrested.

Another case of murder of a Harijan in village Khanpur—which comes under the Aurraiya police station—was also referred to the CID. Again, Pathak's men were named in the FIR. Pathak, of course, claims that, "all this propaganda against me is pure lies. Swami Charan is with us only for the last two years, before which he was with the Congress(I). Most of the cases in my so-called history sheet are false."

Shivpal Singh: The display of might by Yadav's relatives has also fuelled controversies. Particularly, the doings of Yadav's youngest brother, the 39-year-old Shivpal Singh. Last September he was made chairman of the Cooperative Bank, Etawah unit. And now his writ runs over the entire district.

An example of his muscle-flexing: in a Thakur versus Yadav feud, a Thakur was shot dead on April 2 in Etawah town. Four persons, including two aides of Shivpal—Ashok Yadav and Bhure Yadav—were named in the FIR. The Civil Lines Police Station SHO Shah Alam arrested one of the accused. Meanwhile, Ashok and Bhure along with 25 others forcibly grabbed some land belonging to a Thakur on April 9. Fearing Thakur-Yadav trouble, Alam arrested 22 persons. The same day, the pradhan of Saifai village—from where the chief minister hails—and Vishram Das, Yadav's uncle, landed up at the thana and began publicly abusing Shah Alam. Alam arrested them as well.

According to Alam, Shivpal Singh soon arrived with 200 persons, physi-

Yadav addressing rally organised by Pathak (with beard)

Shivpal Singh: growing clout

Though Pathak too is a category 'A' history sheeter, he recently gained some respectability by becoming a Janata Dal MLC.

Yadav's younger brother wields much power.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

cally assaulted him, and forcibly freed the arrested men. Alam registered a case against Shivpal. Alam's statement further says that SSP Jagdish Singh Gungesh, acting as the DIG Kanpur range, arrived the same evening and asked him not to name Shivpal in his complaint. When Alam refused, Gungesh blamed the Etawah SSP Brij Lal and lodged counter FIRs. Brij Lal was transferred from Etawah the next week while Gungesh was promoted to DIG. And Alam's case was transferred to the CID. In fact, since January this year, as many as 59 cases from Etawah have been handed over to the CID. Said a senior police official: "This is one effective way of stalling arrests as CID investigations take years."

Shivpal Singh expectedly tells a different story. "I did not even touch Alam. The public beat him up because he had beaten up the innocents he'd arrested." Yet, even a Janata Dal worker Rajiv Chaturvedi, says: "Officials of all departments in Etawah are living in fear of Shivpal." And the situation in Etawah is unlikely to change in a hurry. For when Yadav is unconcerned about his links with criminals, he is hardly likely to rein in his brother. —DILIP AWASTHI with SABA NAQVI BHAUMIK

PRASHANT PANJIAR

INTERVIEW

"I know what is wrong or right"

MULAYAM Singh Yadav, 50, spoke to Senior Correspondent DILIP AWASTHI *last fortnight, defending himself against charges of associating with criminals. Excerpts:*

Q. *Do you have links with criminals?*

A. You people keep raising such issues without any rhyme or reason. But all this does not bother me. You can keep on writing what you want.

Q. *But newspapers have even identified criminals....*

A. All this is a campaign against me by some newspapers. But did they object when Jayaprakash Narayan, Vinoba Bhave and Arjun Singh got dacoits to surrender?

What is wrong if I also attempt to give some youngsters a chance to change? The Congress(I) government tried its best to implicate me on such charges but it was unsuccessful. All the 117 allegations turned out to be bogus. Just see that inquiry report.

Q. *That report is not available.*

A. Yes, I know it's missing. This was done by the previous government. But I'll find it and show it to you.

Q. *Isn't Annaa a criminal?*

A. That is the problem with you people. You blindly believe what the police say. Do you know why Annaa took to crime? Because they killed his brother. Then the police started implicating him in one case after another.

Q. *By this logic most criminals, dons and dacoits should be freed.*

A. Now Annaa is active in politics and is not involved in crime. What is wrong if I am giving him a chance to earn social respectability?

Q. *Did you use Annaa as your muscleman for campaigning during the elections? Have Annaa and his family members been given political positions in return?*

A. I know what I have done. I am the chief minister and I know what is wrong or right.

Q. *What about Kamlesh Pathak?*

A. All the cases against him are politically motivated. He is a person who has been helping the poor by fighting the *goondas* of Aurraiya.

Q. *Why have CID inquiries been ordered to defend Kamlesh's men like Swami Charan or Lallu Singh who are known history sheeters?*

A. A CID inquiry was ordered because it was required. Secondly, Pathak has what you call a criminal record because he'd been fighting a battle against a notorious local criminal, Arvind Shukla, who is supported by Etawah Congress(I) leaders.

Q. *Were DSP Jain and SSP Brij Lal transferred because they did not listen to your brother Shivpal Singh?*

A. No, they were transferred on administrative grounds.

Q. *But you posted them to Etawah?*

A. Nobody seeks a referendum on administrative transfers. You people write what you want but I know why I have kept or removed anybody.

Q. *Your brother beat up a police inspector...*

A. It was a clear-cut case of police highhandedness and you people defended the police just because my brother was in the picture.

Q. *Darshan Singh, your main supporter for the past 20 years, has fallen out with you and is apprehensive that you might get him eliminated.*

A. Darshan Singh has helped me a lot in the past. But when I came to know he was not a good man I parted company with him. Now he is sore about losing the election against me. So, he's levelling charges.

Q. *Why have you been taking Ram Sevak Yadav, another Etawah history sheeter, around in a helicopter?*

A. Ram Sevak is fighting local Congress(I) criminals. You say people fear him, but I feel the young chap might be killed any day. And that is why I've given him a police gunner.

Q. *You defend your supporters with shady backgrounds by putting the blame on Congress(I) criminals.*

A. You can twist it as you want. It does not make a difference to me. I have said what I had to.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

日本の自動車技術の粋文太子

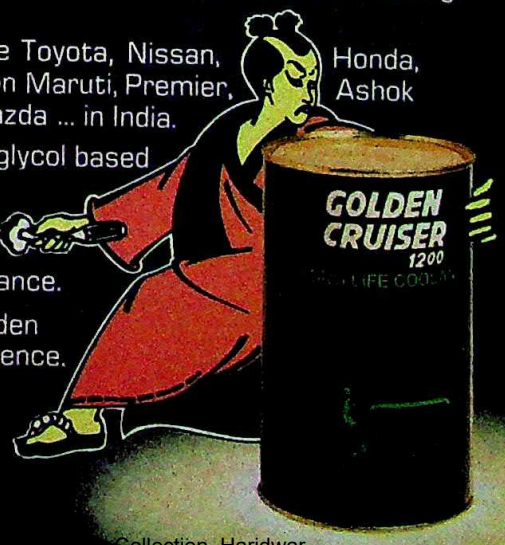
LEARN THE JAPANESE ART OF CAR DEFENCE

Golden Cruiser 1200. Your car's first lesson in car defence. Against overheating, rust, corrosion and freezing.

That's why it's original equipment on cars like Toyota, Nissan, Honda, Suzuki, Daihatsu, Mazda, Hino ... abroad and on Maruti, Premier, Ashok Leyland, Telco, Eicher-Mitsubishi, Swaraj-Mazda ... in India.

For Golden Cruiser 1200 is an ethylene-glycol based solution fortified by patented formulations for the protection of your vehicle. To give engines that extra potency and power to improve their performance.

Give your car the best protection. Give it Golden Cruiser 1200, the supreme Japanese car defence.



GOLDEN CRUISER 1200
LONG LIFE COOLANT

Sunstar Lubricants Limited
Suite 2, 10 Hailey Road, New Delhi-110 001.
Phones : 3329649, 3328917. Fax No. : 3313849.

JAPANESE PERFECTION FOR ENGINE PROTECTION.

Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

JAGMOHAN

"I saved Kashmir from a Tiananmen Square situation"

FORMER Jammu & Kashmir governor Jagmohan is a bitter man. Caught between a hostile Left and an angry Kashmiri Muslim populace, he was forced to hand over charge before he could complete his task of breaking the backbone of militancy in the valley. He now spends his time in the Rajya Sabha under heavy security. Last fortnight, Jagmohan spoke to Senior Correspondent HARINDER BAWEJA. *Excerpts:*

Q. Did you resign on your own or were you asked to quit?

A. It makes no difference whether I resigned on my own or not. Once you've left, you've left and the matter is over.

Q. Do you think you should have been allowed to continue, considering Girish Saxena's appointment shows that there is no change in policy?

A. It is none of my business to sit on judgement on my own deeds. It is for others to judge. My contention is that I became a victim of a disinformation campaign. Certain elements carried out a campaign against me to cover their misdeeds. If Jagmohan had succeeded, these elements would've been exposed.

Q. Do you think V.P. Singh also fell for the disinformation campaign?

A. I don't know what the prime minister's compulsions were. I did the task to the best of my ability. I was busy day and night trying to retrieve a hopeless situation. My job was to bring Kashmir back into the mainstream from a point of no return.

The Kashmir that I went to in January was one where each and every

BHAWAN SINGH

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

component of the power structure had been taken over by the terrorists. Subversive elements had infiltrated the police ranks and a portion of the police was on the verge of mutiny. Civil services had broken down completely. Lawyers, doctors and even the press were dominated by militants or were too scared to come out against them. Over the last four months, not only was the administrative structure rebuilt, but control established in outlying areas.

Q. *Don't you feel let down?*

A. I don't feel let down because I didn't go there with any illusions. I went to do a job. My policy is—do your best and forget the rest. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I saved Kashmir from a Tiananmen Square situation. Unfortunately, in our country, nobody sees the invisible.

Q. *So the Left succeeded, in the sense that you could not complete your task?*

A. In my opinion, I succeeded to a large extent in retrieving a totally hopeless situation. I have the satisfaction of knowing that I did something solid—I prevented another Bluestar or an even greater catastrophe.

Q. *Couldn't you have done better?*

A. All I can say is that with all the millstones around my neck, I still stand erect.

Q. *Were there differences between you and Mufti Mohammed Sayeed over the handling of Kashmir?*

A. We must have held 101 discussions but I don't believe in airing differences or agreements publicly. There is something called decorum. Under the Constitution, a governor has certain functions and I didn't step out of the Constitution. I only exercised the powers available to me.

Q. *What disagreement did you have with George Fernandes?*

A. I don't want to divulge what goes on between the governor and the Central ministers. If he says he had differences, why don't you ask him?

Q. *Did you try and prevent Fernandes from going to Kashmir?*

A. All I pointed out was that the timing was not right for a visit. He wanted to come there on May 7, the day the darbar was moving from Jammu to Srinagar, when the entire administration was geared for a very difficult task. His coming would have only created problems for the administration. Frankly, these are minor matters which happen in any set-up.

Q. *Did you also differ on policy?*

A. I don't think there were any differences. I was clear that we should first eliminate terrorism and thereafter start talks because you can't possibly hold talks under the shadow of the gun.

Q. *Can the complex Kashmir situation be solved?*

A. I've always held that we require political and social reforms to solve the problem. Our country is in need of cleaner political values. It has a body and a soul. While the body—the Constitution—remains, the essence is forgotten. If our political life had been healthy, there'd have been no terrorism in Kashmir. I am not against a political process. But what's the use of a political process for the sake of a political process?

Q. *You have been compared to Tikka Khan for the harsh measures you used.*

A. It just shows that people have no knowledge of history. You describe the man who fought for the country, who has not only put himself but his entire family to risk as Tikka Khan?

> "I was the victim of a disinformation campaign by some elements to cover their own misdeeds. For had I succeeded these people would've been exposed."

Q. *Weren't the measures you introduced harsher than necessary—for instance, the six-day curfew?*

A. I don't understand why everything is foisted on me. Just imagine what would have happened if no arrests had been made, if the arms and ammunition seized by us had fallen into the hands of the militants. How many killers and kidnappers would have still been roaming the streets. Do you realise how many innocent lives I've saved? Why doesn't anybody raise this point?

Q. *Are you anti-Muslim?*

A. Why have I suddenly become anti-Muslim? Why is it that this charge is being levelled now when my measures were meeting with success?

I didn't go to Kashmir to obtain a certificate of popularity. And what do you mean by popularity? Should I expect popularity from Benazir Bhutto or the militants we were cracking down on? Don't forget that Srinagar alone is not Kashmir. If I'd stayed on and started the developmental work I'd planned I'm sure all sections of Kashmir would have sung songs in praise, like they did during my previous tenure. You can't expect them to say 'Mr Jagmohan is very good'. They'd have been eliminated overnight.

Q. *You have been talking of a nexus between politicians, businessmen and secessionists. Who are they?*

A. I don't want to get into any controversy by taking names. I want an independent commission of Supreme Court judges to go into all aspects of the problem and find out the causes of terrorism in the valley. The panel should also get all the state government accounts audited by the auditor general of India. Such an audit would reveal the extent of malpractices in the state. Persons with no ostensible means of income have accumulated vast amounts of money. Let the panel find out how this wealth led to militancy, how people fed militants to save their own skin, how they appointed government servants and how they overlooked their deeds even though they had crossed over to Pakistan. Many government officials took arms training, met Amanullah Khan and continued to draw salaries from the Government.

Q. *Are you referring to Farooq Abdullah's government?*

A. I don't want to take any names. Let the panel find out.

Q. *What if the panel isn't set up? Shouldn't you tell the nation the truth to prevent these elements from doing more harm?*

A. I don't want to enter into a public controversy. What I can say is that the truth never remains hidden for too long.

Q. *How far is Pakistan aiding militants in Kashmir?*

A. Where do you think the Kalashnikovs come from? Pakistan is running training camps and supplying weapons. Take their propaganda machinery. All you have to do is switch on Pakistan TV.

Q. *Can't you infiltrate the terrorist ranks or intercept their communication network?*

A. They are deploying very sophisticated techniques and are not easy to infiltrate. Modern gadgetry like remote-controlled bombs are now being used.

Q. *Why did you accept the Rajya Sabha nomination after you said you would not accept anything from this government?*

A. I was in two minds but then accepted it for reasons of security and also because it is a forum for undertaking creative work.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WE BELIEVE BREADWINNERS DESERVE S

Our regional offices: Delhi Tel: 672888 Tlx: 72044 VNUS IN • Madras Tel: 8255215/8255092 Tlx: 0417529 ISA IN
Pune Tel: 332074 Tlx: 0145679 KOLL IN • Ahmedabad Tel: 463719 Tlx: 01216370 KLNA IN
Kempinski International Inc. Tel: (800) 426-3135 • Central Reservations (Germany) Tel: 06102-5002261.
The Leela Beach Goa, Mobor, Goa. Tel: 23873/23874/23038 Tlx: 91 62 58 Fax: 08 34 22 12 03

Kempinski hotels are Lufthansa hotels

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ESEFE SPECIAL PRIVILEGES.

The Privilege Club has 30 deluxe suites with every facility to make your business trip flawless. Gracious meeting salons, exceptional and personalised service, fine cuisine and cocktails, and utmost comfort and privacy.

And soon, The Leela will offer a new scale of luxury with the Tower nearing completion – 450 deluxe rooms in all and 12 exclusive meeting rooms with hi-tech conference facilities.

The Leela Beach Goa is also underway – a beach resort the world will marvel at.

Stay at The Leela. You deserve nothing less.

THE LEELA
KEMPINSKI BOMBAY

Sahar, Bombay 400 059. Tel: 636 3636
Tlx: 011-79236/79241 KEMP-IN Fax: 636 0606

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Alone in its class

THE EDGE-B/90/LK/24

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DEFENCE ARE WE PREPARED?

IT is by far the most important telephone connection in the subcontinent. A direct hotline across barely 500 km of land as the crow flies. But the men on the two sides do not have the freedom to just pick up the phone and speak to each other. Each has to wait for his operator to call the other side, and offer his counterpart a "call" at a fixed hour. If the other side calls back, they talk. And when the two men, on first-name terms, talk, each word is recorded. This is what keeps the Indian Director-General of Military Operations (DGMO), Lt-General V.K. Singh, in contact with his Pakistani counterpart, Major-General Jahangir Karamat.

Many times over the last three months this link has been the slender thread on which the future of the subcontinent has hung. For when the rival DGMOs talk, they do not just exchange pleasantries. They query each other about movements of divisions and brigades, armour and artillery, engineering units and supply dumps. Each wants to be convinced that the movements the previous day didn't mean one more step towards war.

On political logic and given the lay of today's international strategic terrain, war would seem improbable. Most sensible analysts in the two countries agree that war will be a waste. The international community, led by the US, is going all out to prevent war. Yet, such is the mutual suspicion, so total the military planners' lack of confidence in their

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

political leaders' ability to avoid war that the rival forces are preparing for it feverishly. Yet even terrain and weather seem to rule out an immediate war. With monsoon approaching, the soggy ground in Punjab and Rajasthan will block tank movement, nullifying India's armoured superiority. Winter will be preferable for an Indian campaign as passes on Chinese border close and the ground in the plains is hard and dry. Says a senior Indian general: "We haven't as yet written a scenario for a winter war this year." But it is the worry of being taken by surprise by the other side that makes both DGMOs jump the moment electronic or aerial sensors pick the slightest of rival movements. As happened last fortnight.

Mahajan *(see map)* is India's only major range in the north-west where tanks and artillery can fire while manoeuvring, and last fortnight a brigade each of tanks, artillery and mechanised infantry congregated here, in full view of the US spy satellite hanging in a geosynchronous orbit. An engineer regiment also happened to be at the nearby Birdwal Bridging Training Centre. Says an Indian general: "The Pakistanis added two and two and in tense times that often means eight. So they concluded that the buildup was for a strike corps."

Responding to Pakistani protests India offered to withdraw them as part of confidence-building measures. Though Pakistan did not reciprocate, one more tense moment passed. In New Delhi too, alarm bells have often rung, particularly because Pakistani defensive troops and strike formations are manoeuvring within shouting distance of their staging areas, with front and second-line ammunition. "Who ever heard of strike forces going on a massive summer exercise soon after a major exercise like Zarb-e-Momin?" asks a South Block source.

"Since last November-December the two forces have been in a war-preparation phase," says Major Shankar Bhaduri, editor of the New Delhi-based *Indian Defence Review*. Adds Stephen P. Cohen, a prominent US academic who has written landmark books on Indian and Pakistani armies: "Both forces have been talking of offensive-defence. Translated into English that means pre-emptive war. It is reminiscent of 1914 (World War I)." Cohen also wonders if the superpowers can prevent a war all by themselves. "Who can stop two slightly inebriated people from having a scrap?"

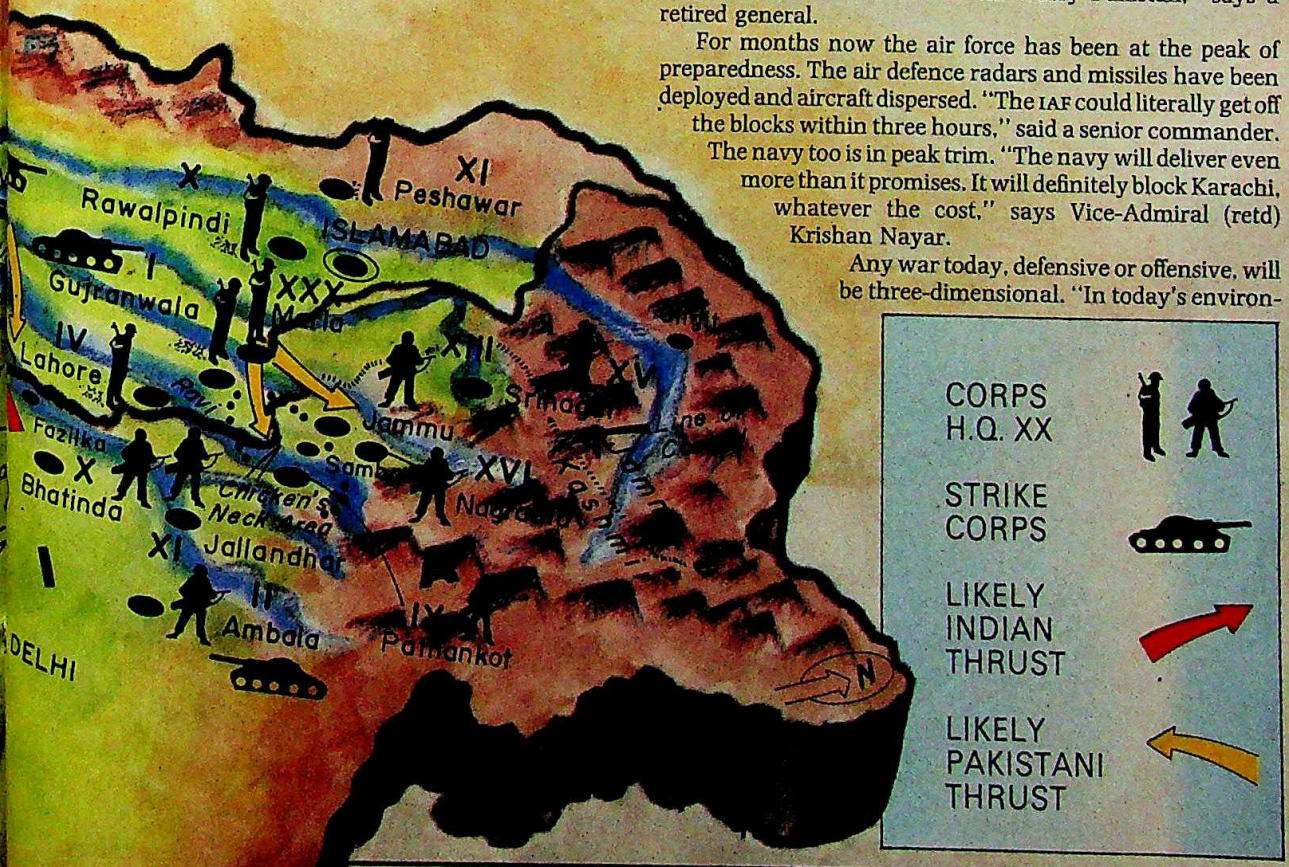
RIVAL ORDER OF BATTLE

- **Pakistan has nine corps, each with two divisions (strike corps I has three). The strike corps are aimed at southern Punjab or Pathankot.**
- **India has eight corps (two more coming up), each averaging three divisions. Both the strike corps are placed to aim at southern Punjab or the desert.**
- **The reserves from both sides have been brought close to the zone of battle.**

INDIA'S buying of equipment has been frenzied—from lakhs of rubber washers for mines to precision-guided munitions (PGM). And since there was a feeling that a war could catch the Indian brass in a stage of transition, the Government has announced key appointments much in advance: S.F. Rodrigues as army chief; Lt-General Gurdial Singh ("Guddi") Garewal to head the Western Command; Lt-General B.C. Joshi for the Southern Command; and Lt-General K.S. ("Bulbul") Brar to take over the Eastern Command. The changes occur within a two-month period and by announcing them in advance, the Government gave the new commanders a chance to get acquainted with their future charges. The general feeling in the army is that the new team—with the northern army commander, Lt-General Gurinder Singh, and the Vice-Chief of Army Staff, Lt-General V.K. Sood—makes a formidable combination. "It will worry Pakistan," says a retired general.

For months now the air force has been at the peak of preparedness. The air defence radars and missiles have been deployed and aircraft dispersed. "The IAF could literally get off the blocks within three hours," said a senior commander. The navy too is in peak trim. "The navy will deliver even more than it promises. It will definitely block Karachi, whatever the cost," says Vice-Admiral (retd) Krishan Nayar.

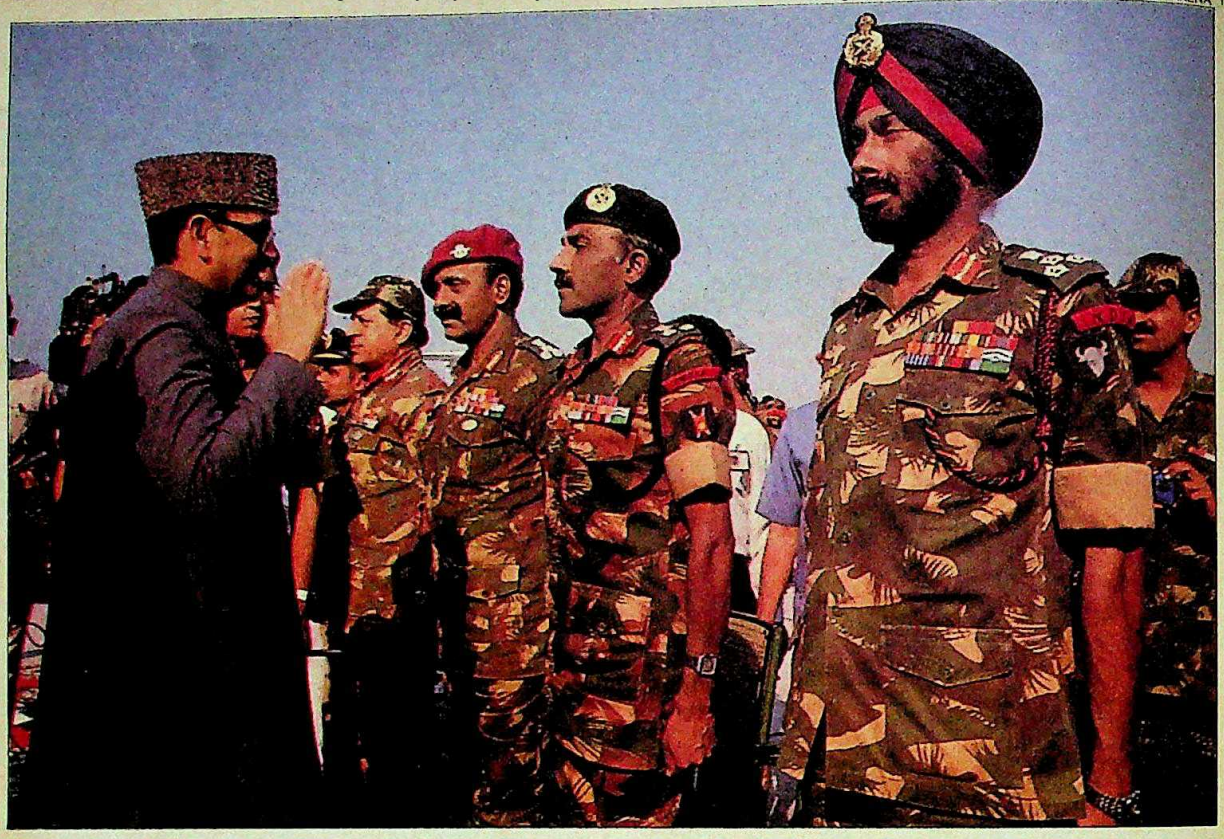
Any war today, defensive or offensive, will be three-dimensional. "In today's environ-



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SHARAD SAXENA



■ The prime minister meeting army officers: worries about Soviet support

ment an army can't defend without air support nor advance. And if the navy can choke Pakistani supplies, the tide will surely turn within two weeks of fighting," says a senior IAF officer. But Indian planners admit that inter-service coordination is far from perfect.

Army deployments have so far been defensive. With the rival general headquarters indulging in a shadow war on the Ops Room charts and computers, most defensive formations are manning their forward positions. India seems to have presumed that the Chinese threat has lessened considerably. Three divisions—57 (Mizoram), 8 (Nagaland) and 20 (Binaguri, for the Siliguri corridor)—have been moved to Kashmir. Similarly 23 division (Ranchi) is now in Punjab. The headquarters of the III Corps (Dimapur, in Nagaland) has moved to the Jammu-Pathankot region. The IPKF headquarters in Madras, kept intact after the withdrawal from Sri Lanka, too is being converted into a corps for Punjab. Remarkably even these new corps are arrayed in defensive profile. The earlier talk of a punitive strike is now tempered with the realisation that India's superiority over Pakistan is not decisive and that it is unrealistic to expect Indian armour to slice through Pakistani desert.

The prime minister personally supervises the forces' preparedness and suddenly money is no longer the problem.

The Pakistanis have already moved two extra divisions into the Rahimyar Khan area *(see map)* for the defence of Sind. Their second squadron of Huey Cobra gunships armed with improved TOW anti-tank missiles has formed. They also have considerable supplies of Copperhead PGM for use against tanks. Any Indian advance will have to run this gauntlet. And the equation in the air could even out if the Saudis transfer an AWAC system to Pakistan, which the IAF considers likely.

In electronic counter measures, the Pakistani Air Force and army have an edge. In the initial rush of Indian expansion in the '80s, electronics failed to keep pace with new hardware. Then came the resource crunch of the last three years. The result is a dangerous technology gap. Also, too many units are understrength in manpower, equipment and war-wastage reserves of ammunition.

Four divisions of the army (54, 36, 4 and 57) are also recovering from the after-effects of the Sri Lankan misadventure. Besides fatigue, a major problem is that none of these has trained with artillery for nearly three years.

There are also questions about India's ability to sustain a campaign for, say, over three months, particularly if Islamic states get involved. Besides equipment they could offer Pakistani aircraft sanctuaries out of the IAF's reach. Says retired Air Marshal Veer Narain: "The lack of long-range bombers leaves IAF incapable of influencing a war beyond Pakistan's borders."

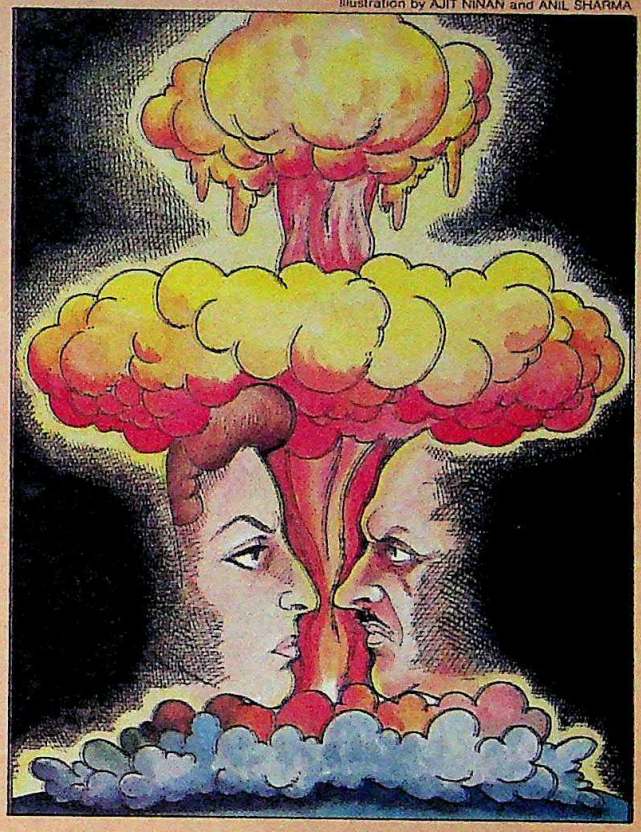
A major worry is the continuing supply of Soviet and Eastern Bloc equipment. Chastened by its Sri Lankan experience the army had ordered thousands of Kalashnikovs from Czechoslovakia and East Germany. The GDR has stopped supplies without warning. The air force and navy are short of the vital PGMs and even conventional bombs and rockets.

A delegation led by vice-chiefs of the army and the navy and chief of IAF's maintenance command visited Moscow in

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Illustration by AJIT NINAN and ANIL SHARMA



NUCLEAR THREAT

Scary Scenario

TEENAGED computerniks in the US often play a grisly game called "Rainfall". Two players fire nuclear missiles to hit Soviet or American cities they have on their side. Every other moment a city is obliterated from the screen. The one whose cities are nuclearised first, loses.

In real life nuclear war there are no losers or winners. Yet it is widely believed that any future war between India and Pakistan could lead to a nuclear stand-off. International experts believe scientists in both countries can rig a bomb in less than a week of getting the 'go' from the governments. "We believe Pakistan has the wherewithal for five to six bombs and India for forty to sixty. And if the bombs have been in the basement, they are now getting on to the elevator," says Leonard S. Spector, the reputed proliferation expert at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment. Adds Stephen P. Cohen, well-known South Asia expert: "The two sides are moving into the option-range."

Several Indian analysts believe that Pakistan will use nuclear option as the ultimate hedge against defeat. "It is difficult to say when this can happen. Perhaps when Indian forces threaten to cross the Sutlej in central sector. Or if we cut too deep into Sind. But anytime after D plus 15 (15 days after beginning of war) you will hear nuclear noises from Pakistan," predicts a general. Analyst K. Subrahmanyam, who gives a nuclear stand-off a "60-65 per cent chance" concurs: "Pakistanis believe they can see the termination of war at any time they want by unveiling the bomb."

South Block has an uneasy feeling that despite its technological edge India lags on militarisation of nuclear programme. "I don't think anyone here has tried to figure out which aircraft from which squadron will take the bomb. If Pakistan is two screw-driver turns away from the bomb, we are a whole dimension away," said a top official. Spector disagrees: "That could have been the case six months ago. Now it's different."

A significant shift has lately been noticed in Indian stance. So far it was reflected by former defence minister K.C. Pant's 1989 statement in Rajya Sabha that "our troops will not face an adversary in a situation of nuclear disadvantage." V.P. Singh has now upped the ante by declaring that "should the opportunity arise, our scientists would not be found wanting." Minister of State for Defence Raja Ramanna who obviously must know something about Indian capabilities has said: "India will not be the first to use nuclear capability. But if necessary, the scientific community would rise to the occasion."

The two sides are playing the classical nuclear game of nerves, creating ambiguity about their own capabilities. Three factors emerge:

► Since both countries lack tactical nuclear weapons there can be no purely military strike particularly as the cantonments are all situated close to urban centres.

► Both sides are equally vulnerable to attacks on economic centres though the Pakistani power, gas and hydel resources are more centralised. The destruction of just two dams will make the Indus river system uncontrollable and devastate Pakistan.

► A side losing conventional war could resort to a symbolic blast over an unpopulated or sparsely populated area to prove the nuclear capability, the resolve to use it and thus seek a truce by blackmail.

Many Pakistani experts say India will be at a disadvantage as most Pakistani cities are too close to the border and the fear of radiation would limit India's options. Subrahmanyam disagrees: "In Hiroshima, people walked in three days after the bomb fell. The extent of radiation and its reach depend on the way the blast is conducted," he explains and asks for effect: "Maybe it will still cause increased lukaemia 30 years later. But if somebody has already nuclearised Delhi who, on this side, will worry about what happens three decades later?"

With nuclear thinking having gone so far, inadequate concern has been paid to the possibility of a long war becoming a true nuclear-biological-chemical scenario. The first danger would be the use of chemical weapons which Iraq got away with so unabashedly. Indian forces believe Pakistan has them. "Why else would they buy one lakh gas masks?" asks an officer. Indian brass has taken it up with the Government but, sometime back an apex committee of secretaries firmly turned down the demand. Yet, if tensions continue that firm denial too could turn into that frightful term: "ambiguity."

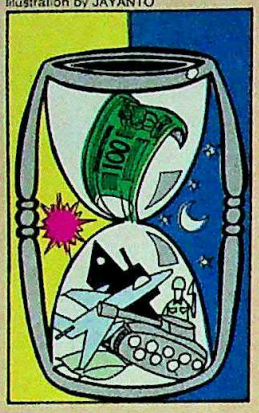
—SHEKHAR GUPTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE RS 27,000-CRORE WAR

Illustration by JAYANTO



IN the build-up to any Indo-Pak war in the near future two statements will stand out. Benazir Bhutto's talk of a 1,000-year-war and V.P. Singh's taunt that Pakistan couldn't last 1,000 hours.

Unlike the last two wars another Indo-Pak war could be much longer. Particularly if India were to, as Singh said, continue fighting till "all our objectives" have been achieved. According to wargame scenarios discussed in South Block such a war could easily last upto six weeks or even longer. Supposing, accordingly, that a war lasts 1,000 hours or 41.6 days the cost, for India alone, would be around Rs 27,000 crore or Rs 27 crore per hour. That is presuming an Indian victory. Since war will be a complicated affair with scores of large and small battles all over a varied front it is impossible to calculate its exact cost.

Broadly, the only calculation could be based on the 1971 war which officially cost Rs 200 crore a week at that time. Military prices have increased 10 times, making it Rs 2,000 crore a week at the 1971 intensity. But comparatively, 1971 was a low-intensity conflict. The size of forces engaged now will be twice as much. Overall, the cost may be around Rs 4,500 crore a week. A 1,000-hour war then will cost India Rs 27,000 crore which equals the aggregate current budget allocation for agriculture, rural development, energy, industry, minerals, and social services. It will put Indian economy back by a decade. Similar costs will devastate Pakistan.

It is, however, less difficult to estimate the approximate cost of a day's set-piece battle to get an idea of the chilling costs of modern combat.

This scenario, constructed by Features Editor Shekhar Gupta and defence analyst Ravi Rikhye is for a day's battle in the desert. The Indian II Strike Corps, consisting of three divisions—1 Armoured, 33 Mechanised, 14 Infantry and 14(I) Armoured Brigade is advancing against desperate opposition at the joint between Pakistan V and XXXI Corps *(see map)*. As this might be the *most* decisive battle of the war, it is being fought at maximum intensity. India also has in support two artillery, one air defence and two engineer brigades.It has committed 675 tanks, 616 BMP Infantry Combat Vehicles , 414 artillery guns, 108 air defence guns and 120 tracked surface-to-air missile launchers. Pakistan resists with two infantry divisions, two independent armoured and one independent infantry brigade plus the equivalent of a Corps artillery brigade. As its II(strike) and XII Corps are still in reserve Pakistan is yet trading space for time, and relying mainly on anti-tank missiles, Tow-Cobra, Copperhead "Smart" shells and Maverick missiles to hurt Indians. The Indian advance could cost as follows:

	Rs Crore
AMMUNITION	
675 tanks firing 40 shells each at Rs 3,000 per shell	8.1
616 Infantry Combat Vehicles firing 20 shells at Rs 2,000	2.46
414 artillery guns firing 100 shells each at Rs 3,000 apiece	12.42
Anti-tank missiles (6 each from 30 MILAN launchers, 600 Saggers from Soviet origin Infantry Fighting Vehicles and 100 from helicopters) at Rs 1 lakh apiece	8.8
Surface to air missiles of various categories like SAM-6, 7, 8, 13, 14 from 40 launchers	40.00
Other ammunition including infantry, air force and rocket regiments	35.00
FUEL	
675 tanks at 1,000 litres and 800 other tracked vehicles at 500 litres each at Rs 5 per litre	0.54
8,000 light vehicles at 100 litres	0.40
Helicopters flying 200 (Rs 25,000 per hour) and fighters 50 hours (Rs 35,000 per hour)	0.67
ATTRITION	
Armoured fighting vehicles (20 per cent) at Rs 2.5 crore per tank and Rs 1 crore per Infantry Combat Vehicle	461.00
10 per cent loss of self-propelled air defence system at Rs 4 crore	48.00
Loss of six helicopters (combat and transport) average at Rs 5 crore each	30.00
Loss of six combat aircraft on an average at Rs 10 crore each, other losses including trucks, jeeps and other soft vehicles artillery pieces and specialised engineering vehicles	40.00
TOTAL FOR ONE DAY	**687.39**

To avoid exaggeration we assume losses of other stores, destruction by enemy aircraft behind Indian lines, spillages and other accidents, rations and other supplies are included.

Also, no provision has been made for death and injury to man.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

RAVI SHANKARAN

■ **IPKF troops on their return from the Sri Lankan misadventure: fatigue**

March. It quickly realised that the old attitude of "take what you like and we'll talk about prices later" was gone. The Soviets were indifferent and warmed up only when V.P. Singh, who then happened to be in Namibia, complained to Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze. In war such delays could be disastrous.

The worry about Soviet equipment is genuine. The army desperately needs more air-defence systems to counter Pakistan's Huey Cobras. But Soviet factories have stopped producing the Kwadrat and Schilka air-defence missile-gun systems that the army uses. The new Soviet system, Tangushka, costs Rs 8 crore apiece (at least 50 are needed) and is not available off the shelf. The air force also lacks spares for its MiG-29s.

A major problem is that four of the army's crack divisions are still recovering from the after effects of Sri Lanka.

The army realises that after committing at least four divisions for internal security and guarding of supply lines, and leaving at least five to counter China in Sikkim, Siliguri and Arunachal, it lacks the numerical superiority to overwhelm Pakistan. Defence is not such a problem.

Pakistan has problems too. To begin with, its capacity to withstand losses in a war after day 10 is dangerously limited. Second, just as an Indian advance through the desert will run into massive resistance, any Pakistani adventure in Kashmir will face mind-boggling defences. "We know every inch of that area. Pakistan just cannot break through," says retired Major-General Afsir Karim of the Indian Army.

Punjab, where Pakistan could expect to exploit internal trouble is heavily fortified and defended with canals that are virtual traps for advancing armour. Pakistan's V Corps in Hyderabad too has been thinned—a bulk of its two divisions has moved to Sind to maintain peace. Moreover, the Pakistan Army will have to be cautious. If it loses another war it would cease to be a political force.

On balance, in a reasonably long (four to eight weeks) war India will win but at great cost. Dismembering Pakistan is a remote possibility as it will have to be in defiance of both the Islamic world and China. At best, the war would end in a pyrrhic victory. At worst, in an expensive stalemate.

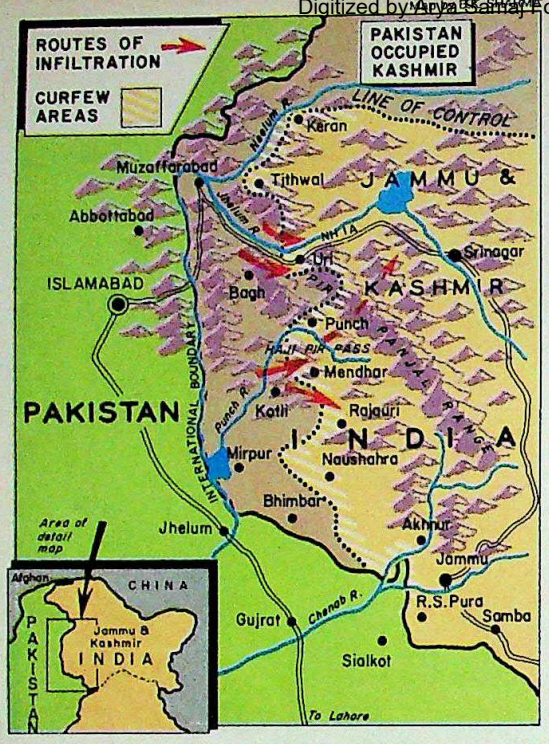
That is why at top-level meetings every Wednesday V.P. Singh, as defence minister, has been weighing a new gameplan. The answer to subversion is better security and counter-subversion, not war. The border should be sealed—mined wherever possible on the lines of the Turkish-Soviet border. The build-up elsewhere should be strong enough to deter any possible Pakistani adventure. And the low-intensity conflict in the Kashmir valley—that is now bristling with eight army divisions—should be tackled forcefully *(see accompanying story)*.

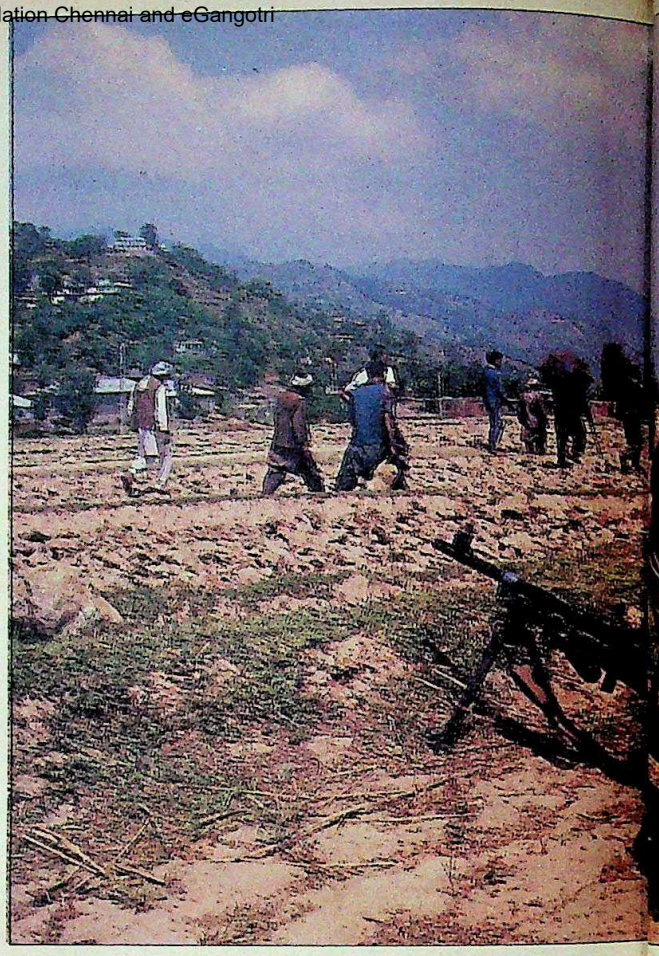
For this strategy the forces display the right combination of confidence and preparedness. Their build-up may be inadequate to crush Pakistan. But it is sufficient, if backed by the correct political approach, to defeat its designs in Kashmir. That is all the country needs for, as Sun Tzu, the Chinese strategist had said 2,500 years ago: "To win one hundred victories in one hundred battles is not the acme of skill. To subdue the enemy without a battle is the acme of skill."

—SHEKHAR GUPTA with KANWAR SANDHU

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





JAMMU & KASHMIR BORDER

On Battle Stations

Low-intensity conflict on, as crackdown on militants is intensified on the border

THE place: Rajouri cantonment, Jammu. The time: an evening last month. In an ante-room, a dozen men sit hunched over a 'classified' map of Jammu and Kashmir. One is the country's home minister, another his deputy. Others include two generals, the director of the country's intelligence agency, the director-general of the Border Security Force (BSF) and an adviser to the governor. The agenda: a review of the security operation being carried out by the army and the BSF along the 1,100-km border stretch from Samba in Jammu to Karen in Kashmir. The problem: nearly 4,000 youth have crossed over to Pakistan during the first three months of this year, and when the snow melts, many more will try to. The task: to stop them.

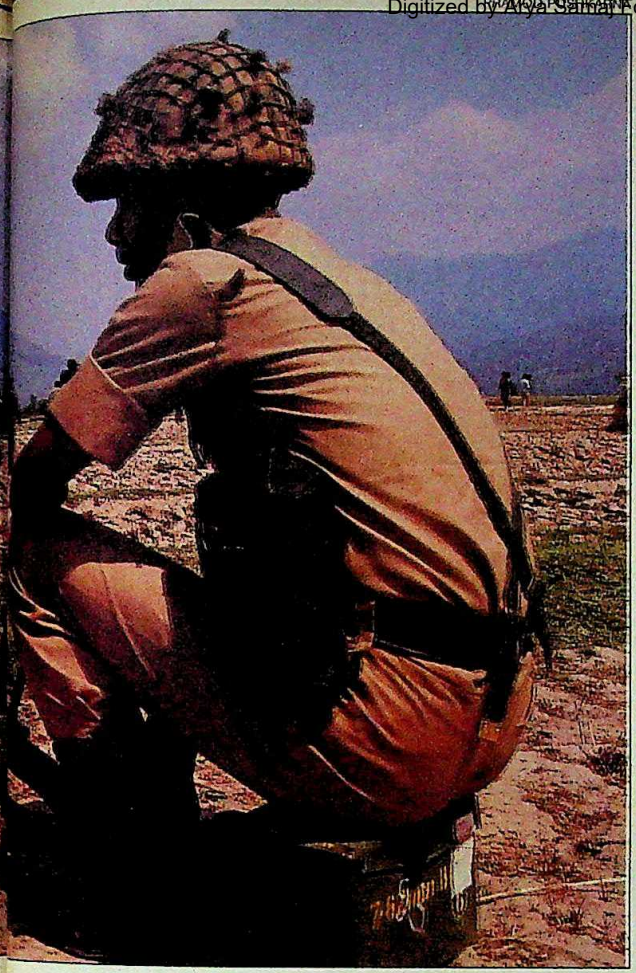
With war between India and Pakistan an ever-present possibility, it's a task that assumes special significance. A well-oiled subversive operation, masterminded from across the border and enjoying local support, can wreak havoc behind the line of battle by cutting off supplies and reinforcements. To prevent that, the ongoing crackdown on militants has been extended westwards from the Kashmir valley to the Line of Control (LOC) *(see map)*. The army and the BSF are trying to turn a five-km belt along the border into a "no-militants land". A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been imposed to keep the local population indoors at night; during that time, the security forces shoot to kill. Villagers have been issued identity cards. And hut-to-hut, thicket-to-thicket combing operations are routine. For all practical purposes, a "war zone" has come into being since the end of March.

Exchange of machine-gun fire between Indian and Pakistani forces has been commonplace for several months. But now there's a difference. Indian marksmen no longer aim over the heads of intruders. The new buzzword is "effective firing". And Indian forces no longer ignore military activity in civilian buildings across the border. In the Poonch area last month, they used heavy machine-gun fire to raze a school building where Pakistani armymen were erecting defences. An estimated 15 persons were killed. Says an army general: "We are losing two to three boys every fortnight but the casualties on the other side are four times this number."

If the security forces have turned ruthless, it's because the militants have grown bolder. In the first four months of the year they killed 94 persons and injured 142. In May alone, they killed 85 and injured 55. The security forces are matching them, bullet for bullet. In the first four months they killed 160 militants, injured 90 and arrested about 600. In May, 90 militants were killed, 130 injured and more than 500 arrested. From January to April, 34 AK-47 rifles and 40 pistols were seized. The seizure climbed to 70 AK-47 rifles, 90 pistols and 30 rocket launchers in May—enough to equip a small army. More disturbing has been the seizure of 140 anti-personnel mines, 18 anti-tank mines and rocket launchers in May which can easily blow up the small bridges in the area.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



FRAMOD PUSHKARNA

A BSF jawan guards a village on the Line of Control

At the border post of Ranbir Singh Pura, just 15 km from Jammu, the change in atmosphere is evident. It was here that in February a crowd of Pakistanis tried to cross the border. Indian sentries tried to dissuade them through loudspeakers. Then, they opened fire, killing seven. Says one BSF sentry: "The next time I will pick them out at a distance." Even the casual banter between the BSF and the Pakistani rangers has stopped. The Pakistani rangers don't even come down from their 80-ft-high observation post.

At the headquarters of the 20th battalion, adjutant B.B. Sonar reschedules his night inspection route to include a nearby army post where a carpenter working for the BSF has been under detention because he forgot to carry his identity card. Sonar also has to deal with irate farmers who insist on operating their wheat-threshing machines at night, despite the curfew. The clatter of the machines disturbs the patrols. "We need to listen to every noise, every footfall, every bark of the dogs to detect intruders," explains a section commander.

The Samba-Jammu border stretch, used by both Punjab and Kashmir militants, is comparatively easy to patrol since it's in the plains. Moreover, this part of the international border up to the Chenab *(see map)* is well defined, so violations are easier to identify. But the thickly populated villages and the fields which extend up to the barbed wires on the border provide cover for intruders. Three new battalions have been pressed into service here. Says P.C. Dogra, inspector general of the BSF's Jammu zone: "We are not cutting any corners."

Farther up, from the north bank of the Chenab, policing the border is far more difficult. Here, the LOC diverges from the international border; between the two lies Pakistan-controlled territory. Farther north, the LOC crosses the Jhelum near Uri, and ends at point NJ 9842 on the Siachen Glacier. The international border before the Chenab is guarded by the BSF, with army positions lying behind the ditch-cum-bundh line designed to stop tanks and infantry. At the LOC itself, the BSF operates under the supervision and administrative control of the army. Both jointly plan strategies and deployments, with the army taking up higher positions where greater firepower is needed.

THE LOC is important, especially because of its tenuous nature. If Pakistan can prove a village has Pakistani nationals, it keeps the village. In Rajouri sector two months ago, army look-outs reported that the Pakistanis had erected electricity lines in a hamlet of half a dozen houses falling in India. The electricity bills could have been furnished as proof that the hamlet belonged to Pakistan. So, within days, the electricity pole was demolished with explosives. Says a senior army officer at Rajouri: "There is no foolproof sealing of the border. But in this area, it is easier to spot Kashmiris from the valley because they look different."

Now there's evidence that the Rajouri-Poonch area is coming under militant influence. Recently, six groups were caught crossing into India near the villages of Mendhar and Surankote, and five were caught crossing out. The Home Ministry is alert to the danger. A secret document warns of attempts by militants to provoke a communal backlash in the Hindu-dominated Jammu sector. Says Minister of State for Home Affairs Subodh Kant Sahay: "A lot of damage has already been done. We do not want new areas of trouble."

Indian soldiers no longer aim over the head of intruders at the border. The new buzzword is "effective firing".

As a response to the infiltration, the army has changed its strategy; now it concentrates its attention, not on the LOC, but on the 12 passes in the Pir Panjal mountain range which cuts the Kashmir valley from the Rajouri-Poonch area. A three-tier picketing system has been introduced. And additional brigades—specialising in counter-insurgency and mountain warfare—have been requisitioned.

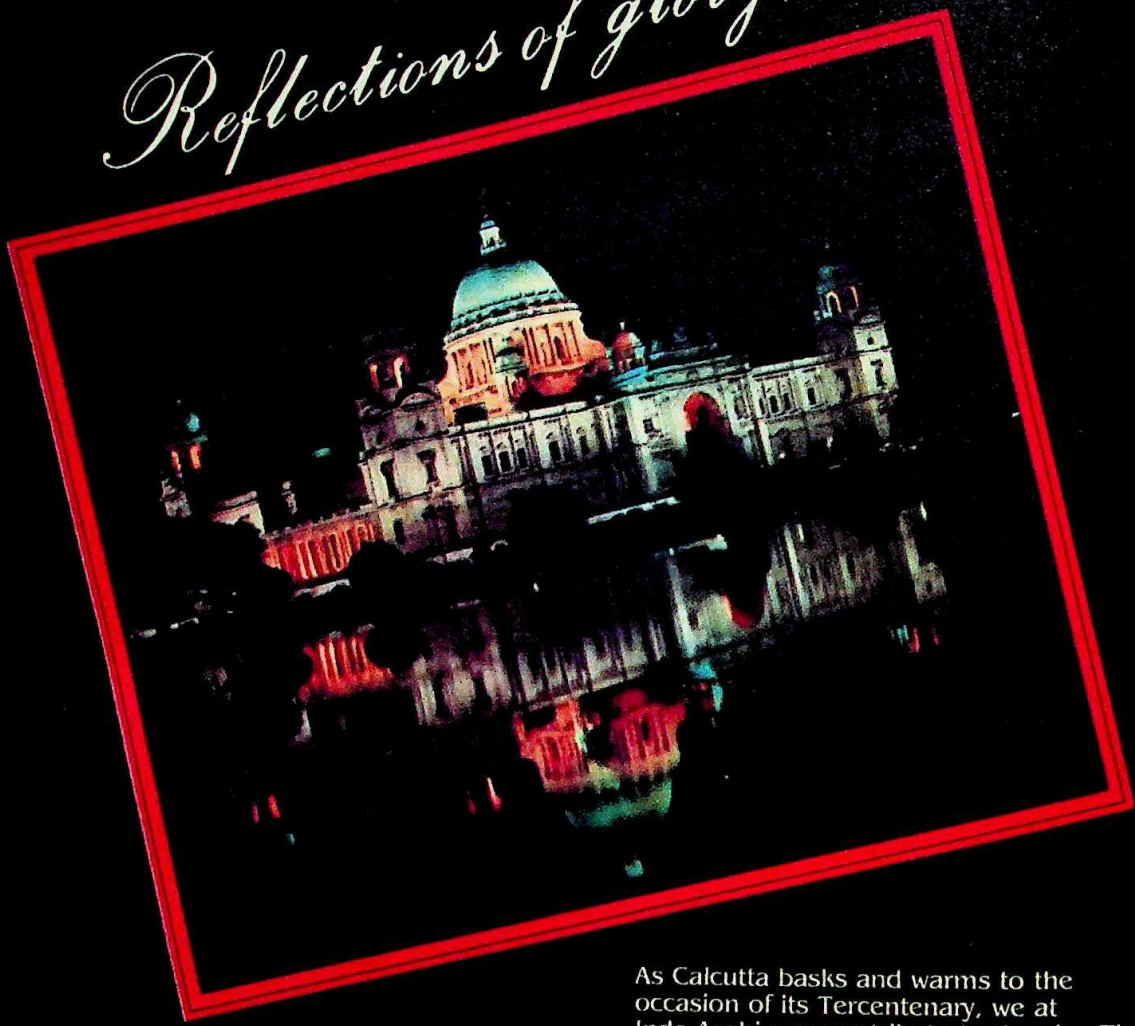
To prevent the local population from falling prey to militant propaganda, the Government has promised around Rs 5 crore to every border district, to be used for public works which can generate employment. Simultaneously, there's been an attempt to garner local support for the security measures. Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed recently toured the area with Sahay. In Poonch, he pointed to the numerous martyrs' monuments: "We don't want a war, but if a war is thrust upon us, the people of this area know how to answer that." The crowd of about 5,000—in a town of 8,000—roared: "*Azad Hindustan Zindabad.*"

The danger of security measures alienating the local population is real. In town after town, people complain. For instance, the Bakarwals—nomads who live by cattle

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

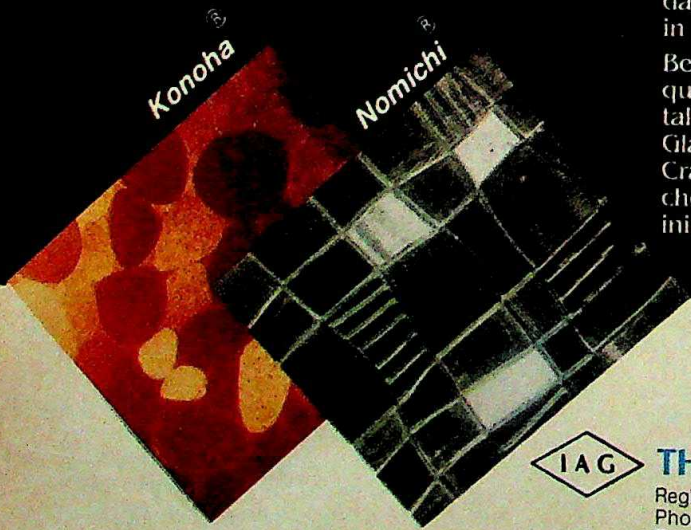
300 CALCUTTA

Reflections of glory...



As Calcutta basks and warms to the occasion of its Tercentenary, we at Indo-Asahi pay our tribute to the city. The bevelled glass and mirror and the gorgeous chandeliers adorned so many 'Palaces' and public buildings. But those days of yore and glory are now cushioned in the soft wedges of memory.

Being headquartered in Calcutta, our quest for revival of this glorious spirit takes shape in the Indo-Asahi Figured Glass Selection. Inspired by nature. Crafted with skill by us. As a tribute to a cherished tradition of grace, elegance and inimitable style.

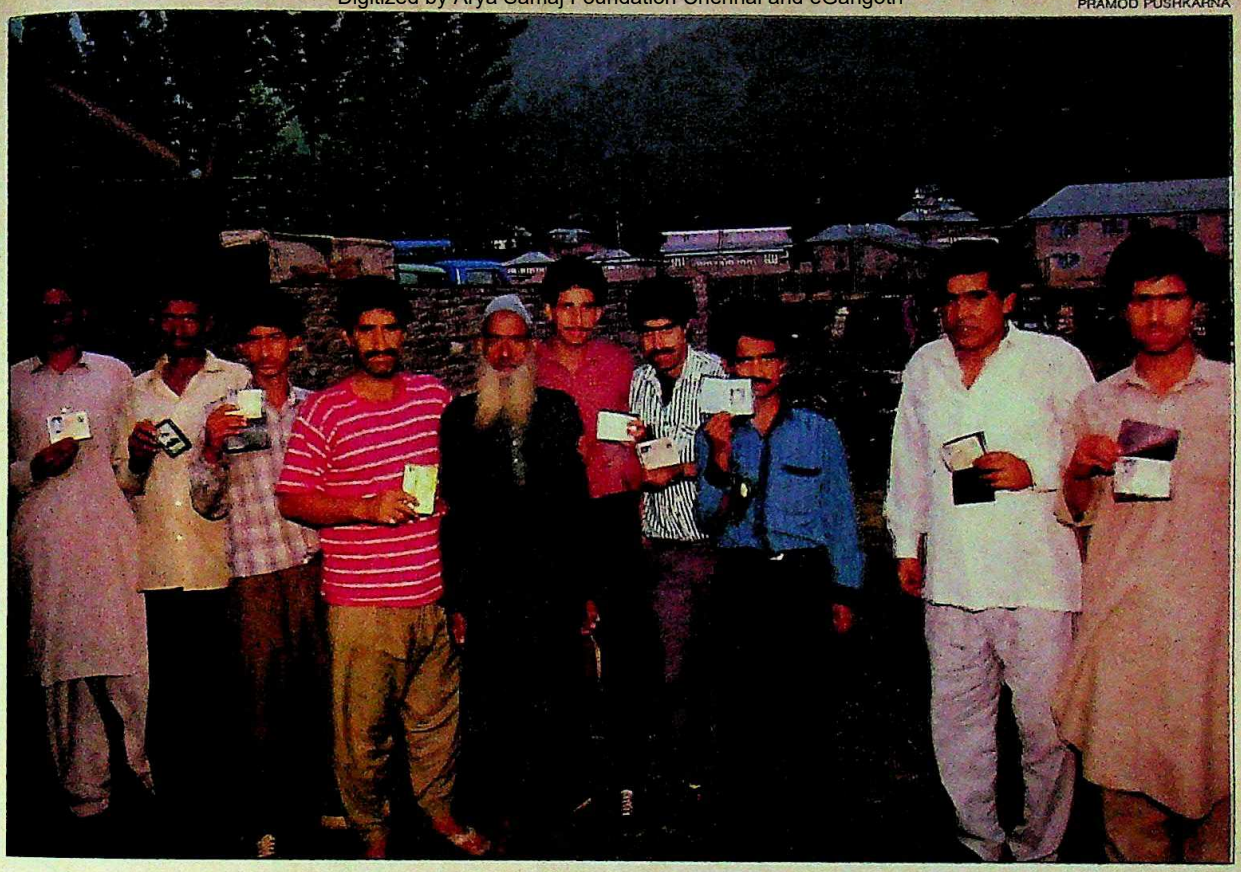


IAG THE INDO-ASAHI GLASS CO. LTD.
Registered Office : 3 Hungerford Street, Calcutta 700017
Phone : 44-8341, 44-8342, 44-4017.
Telex : 021-8172 IGCA, 021-4654 IGCA, Cable : Asahiglas
Fax : 91-033-289745

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA



■ **Residents of Uri village with identity cards: no option**

rearing—can no longer go up to the hills to graze their livestock. The fodder in the plains is nearly exhausted and the cattle now face starvation. In the Uri sector, where 54 infiltration routes have been identified, security forces are discouraging the cultivation of millet because the tall plants provide excellent cover for intruders. The villagers are up in arms because the alternative crop, paddy, is not profitable. But for the security forces, these are minor complaints. Infiltration is the more serious problem; once the snow melts a flood of trans-border crossings is expected.

Villagers living on the five-km belt along the border have identity cards which are examined at every check-post.

Security measures to avert that are already in place. On National Highway 1A—which connects Srinagar with Uri and crosses over to Muzaffarabad, capital of Pakistan Occupied Kashmir—every vehicle going past the 12 checkposts is a target, every traveller a suspect. If a car crosses an open barrier, the occupants first hear a piercing whistle. When they turn, they confront two burly Sikhs from the Dogra Regiment training their self-loading rifles on the car. One of them told the INDIA TODAY team near Naushera, a little before Uri: "Another 10 feet and I would have shot you."

Barely a week before, two carloads of militants had been caught here when trying to get past the barrier by posing as bank officials out on a survey. The morale of the armymen is high. Says one junior officer fresh from Sri Lanka: "I have seen enough of them near Jaffna. Let these people and their friends from across the border come."

But here too, security measures are alienating the locals. In the office complex in Uri, only two institutions are functioning—the police station and the hospital. People from nearby towns who used to work in Uri have stopped coming. The lone chemist's shop, run by a man from Baramullah, is closed. To establish their patriotism when stopped by security forces, locals have to run home to fetch the certificates of commendation won by family members during the last two wars. The army has carried out a house-to-house survey of the villages and residents have been given identity cards. Says Tasdang Hussain Shah, a lawyer: "We are made to pose for our identity card photographs with a number tag around our necks. Are we cattle? Is it a crime to be born in this place?"

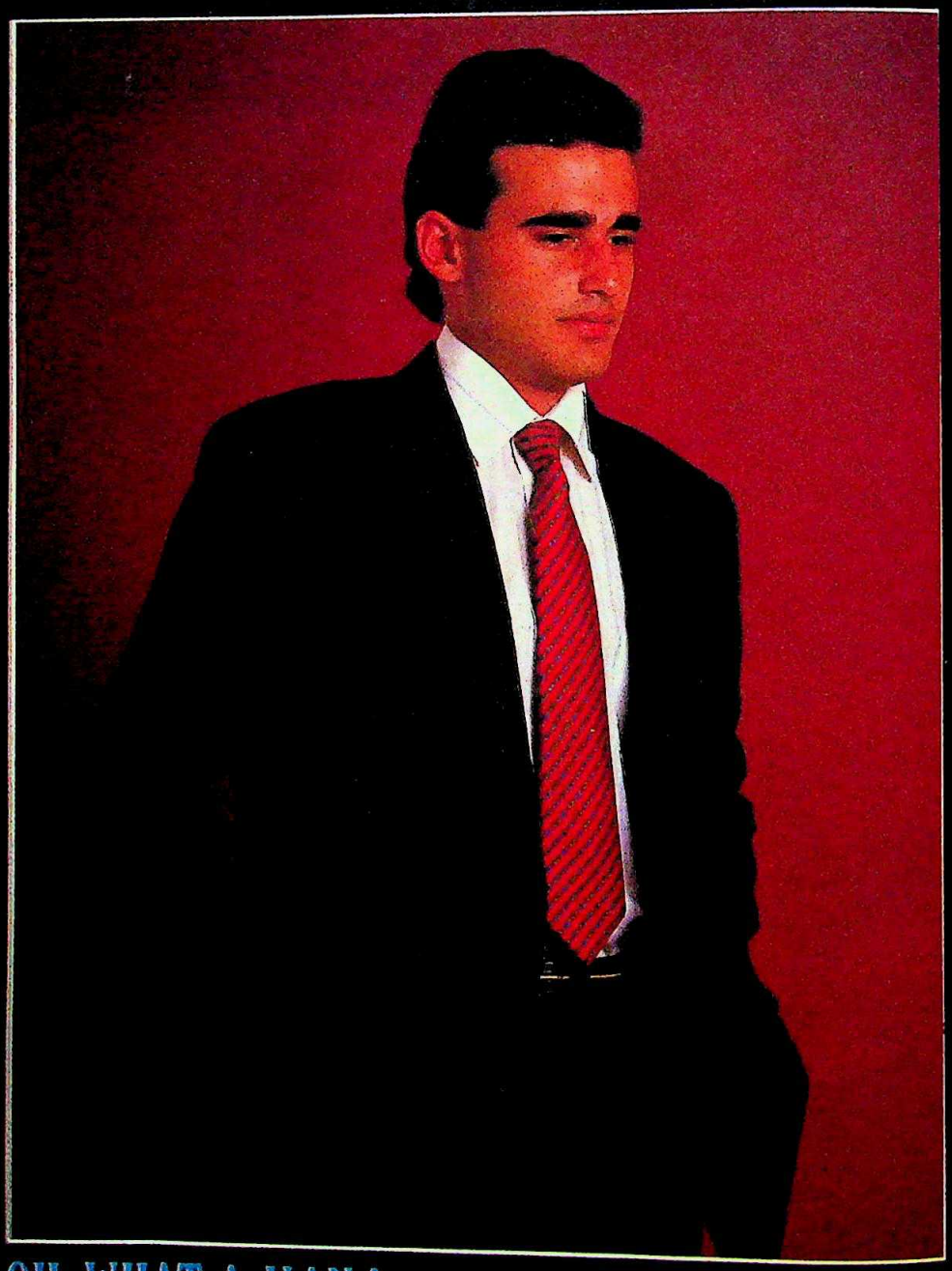
About 300 families have left the villages around Uri for Pakistan, where they are paraded as evidence of the Indian forces' "repression". Those who remain are sullen. Senior army officers worry about it; in a war it could seriously hamper the army. But they are caught in a bind. If they relax their crackdown, the border could sprout many more leaks and the militants would have a field day. That can't be allowed to happen. Says H.P. Bhatnagar, director-general of the BSF: "Our first priority is to check infiltration."

That imperative means the crackdown may be intensified. Things may get better after some time. But before that, for the locals at least, things will get a lot worse. Neither they nor the security forces have any choice.

—PANKAJ PACHAURI at Jammu & Kashmir border

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



OH, WHAT A MAN !

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

AMADEUS
Premium Worsted Suitings

Created by
Modern
Suitings Limited

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BEER INDUSTRY

Time For Cheer

With beer drinking gaining greater social acceptance, sales touch a new high

VIJAY Mallya, the peripatetic chairman of UB Limited (formerly United Breweries), was in for a little surprise when he flew down from London to Bangalore last month. At the group's review meeting, he was informed that beer had raced ahead as the liquor division's highest profit earner, topping the financial year at a frothy Rs 20 crore. Remarked Mallya: "Beer has always had that kind of potential. But it has now shattered its shell. The beer boom is on."

Mallya should know. With UB and Mohan Meakin running neck to neck for top spot, the two companies sell over half the beer drunk in the country. With the Meakin group reporting a record 21-per cent surge in sales last year, the mood in the beer industry could be summed up in just one word: cheery.

With close to 500 million bottles being guzzled annually in the country, in sheer volume beer is now fast moving up as urban India's most popular alcoholic drink. Since 1988, the industry is growing at an estimated 12 per cent annually, up from an average of 5 per cent in the mid-'80s. "Our sales are brimming over," says Krishan Mittu, Meakin's brewer-in-chief.

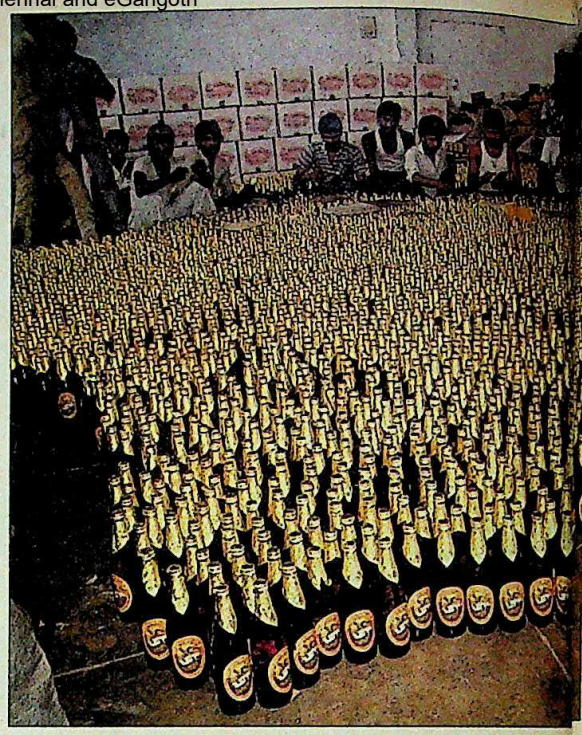
Fermenting this boom is a major change in attitude towards beer, especially among youngsters. As K.M. Ponnappa, Karnataka's excise commissioner, points out: "No more is beer drinking in public a taboo. Youngsters are now graduating from soft drinks to beer. It is now the 'in' drink." Adds Anup Shah, a Bangalore college student: "It keeps us away from smack (heroin). It is gaining parent acceptability. And it's not easy to get drunk on beer."

Nowhere is the beer boom more evident than in Bangalore itself. In just five years, more than 250 British-style pubs have sprung up, serving the much sought after draught beer at cheap prices. And almost all of them are doing roaring business. Says Yogesh Kalro, a pub owner: "People may not have enough to eat. But they seem to have enough to drink beer. It's turning out to be the common man's drink."

Kalro may just be exaggerating. That distinction still goes to country-made liquor like arrack. And sales of the ill-defined Indian Made Foreign Liquor—whisky, rum, gin and brandy—are growing at the same rate as beer. The difference, however, is that beer, always the industry's weakling, is now becoming a strong contender for the top spot. "What is happening is that more people are shifting from hard liquor to beer," says Jolly Bhargava, the Delhi-based senior vice-president of Shaw Wallace, the country's third largest beer brewer.

Other factors that have spurred the boom are ill-defined. One of them, according to industry analysts, is that with Indians relaxing more and going for holidays, beer is the preferred drink on such trips. Also, as Rahul Tandon, UB's general manager, says: "Beer sales reflect the rise in consumerism. The middle class has taken to it in a big way."

The beer industry too has kept pace with changing tastes. Apart from over 60 brands competing for sales, the past decade has seen a variety of beer being manufactured. Those conscious of a 'beer belly' are now being provided with diet beer. Associated Breweries' London Diet and Meakin's Slimms were among the first low-calorie



Packing beer at a Meakin's brewery

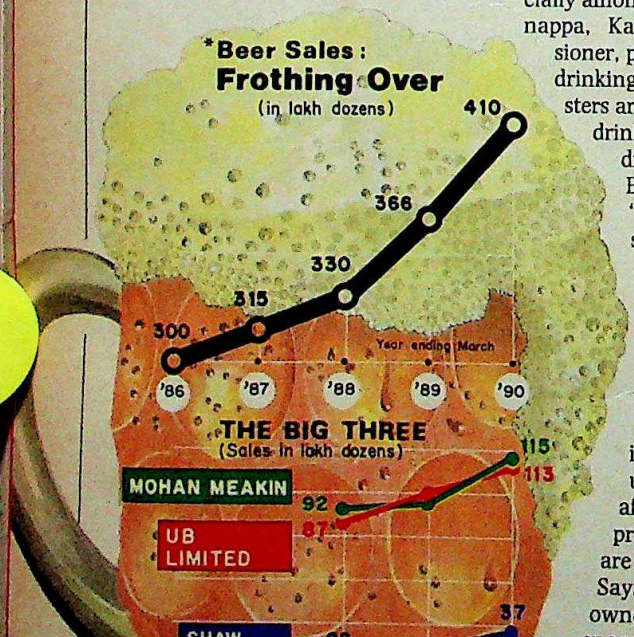


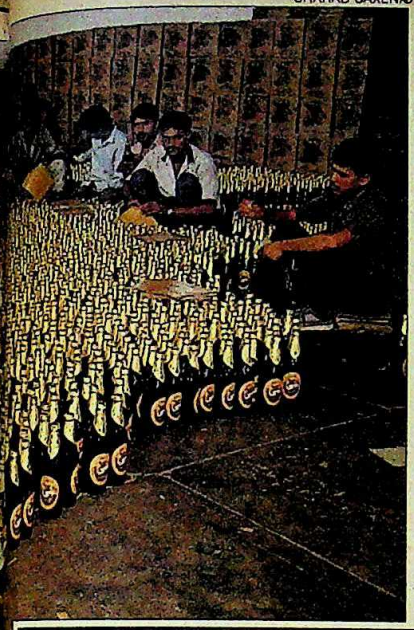
Chart by B.K. SHARMA and ANIL SHARMA

No. 1
Mohan Meakin's
GOLDEN EAGLE
Sold (89-90): 740 lakh

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

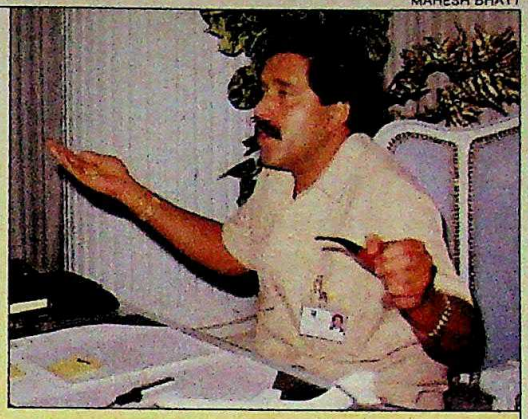
SHARAD SAXENA

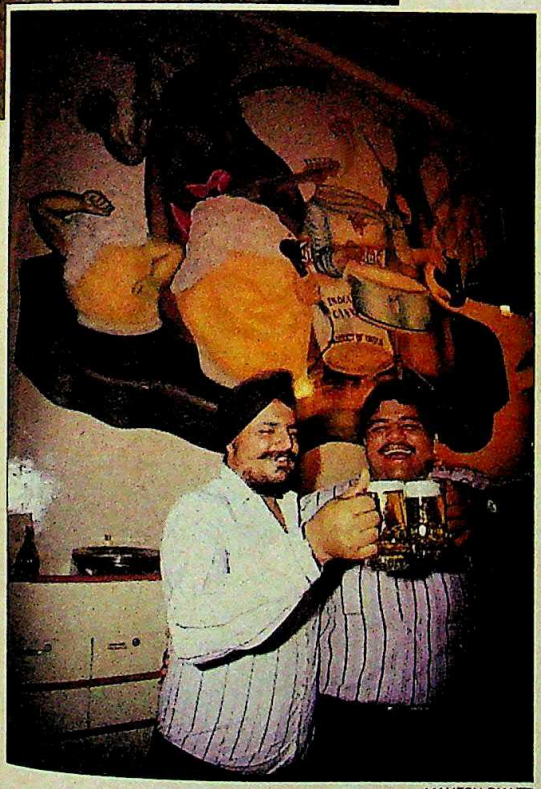


"Beer always had potential. But only now has it shattered its shell. The boom is on."

VIJAY MALLYA
Chairman, UB Limited

MAHESH BHATT





MAHESH BHATT

Drinkers at a Bangalore pub

beers. UB is now planning to introduce a similar beer called Kingfisher Lite.

Almost simultaneously a whole new market for strong beer, especially in smaller towns and villages, has come up. Meakin's Thunderbolt and UB's Bullet are among the more popular. With strong beers having around 8 per cent alcohol, drinking one bottle of beer is like having two pegs of whisky. The latest trend is to sell beer in smaller bottles for, what one executive calls, "the lunch drink". And UB, which made a disastrous debut with canned beer a decade ago, is now re-introducing it.

The new thirst for beer has seen various state governments relax their strict licence rules for beer. In Maharashtra, easily the largest beer-guzzling state in the country, in just five years over 2,000 beer bars have been licensed. Shekhar Wagh, general manager of the Bombay-based Hindustan Breweries, says: "Beer is now as easily available as soft drinks. And beer sales have shot up." After Kerala and Tamil Nadu relaxed their licensing rules, beer sales registered an average 25 per cent increase.

Even Delhi, which for long has followed a policy of temperance, granted licences recently to over 20 restaurants to serve beer exclusively. Meanwhile, the draught beer culture is spreading to Hyderabad and Calcutta too. In sales, the southern and western states top the list simply because, as M. Nandagopal, managing director of Mohan Breweries in Madras, points out: "Up north beer drinking is seasonal and winter is a dead loss for us. Here, since it is only hot, hotter and hottest, beer is a year-round drink."

The Union Government, which for years had been restraining beer sales, is showing signs of loosening up too. Since 1975 no new brewery had been sanctioned. But with demand growing rapidly in the mid-'80s, the 34 breweries expanded their existing capacities and doubled their output. Though this was against rules, excise departments in various states preferred to turn a blind eye as the revenue kept pouring in.

Discarding the ostrich-like policy, the Union Food Processing Ministry lifted the ban on new breweries last year. The response was overwhelming: 600 companies applied for licences. But with a new government in the saddle, officials are awaiting fresh directions.

Despite the flurry of applications, setting up a brewery is still difficult. The initial investment is in the region of Rs 10 crore. With financial institutions deciding that no credit would be given to set up liquor units, the risk factor is much higher. And with strong brand loyalties, any new entrant is likely to burn his fingers badly.

Moreover, as Meakin's Mittu points out: "Beer-making is a specialised process which few can master." The whole process of converting barley into malt, flavouring it with hops and allowing the brew to ferment with yeast is highly sensitive and requires expert supervision. As D. Murugesan, chief executive of Associated Breweries, whose beers dominate the Maharashtra market, says: "The mortality rate is high. Small breweries usually either close down or are acquired by larger ones."

In the meanwhile, the big companies have been gearing up to meet the boom. Shaw Wallace has decided to make it a

No. 2
UB Limited's
KINGFISHER
Sold: 670 lakh

No. 3
UB Limited's
EXPORT LAGER
Sold: 340 lakh

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"The middle class has taken to it in a big way. And we just can't meet the demand."

KRISHAN MITTU
Brewer-In-Chief, Meakin

THE BEER FAMILY

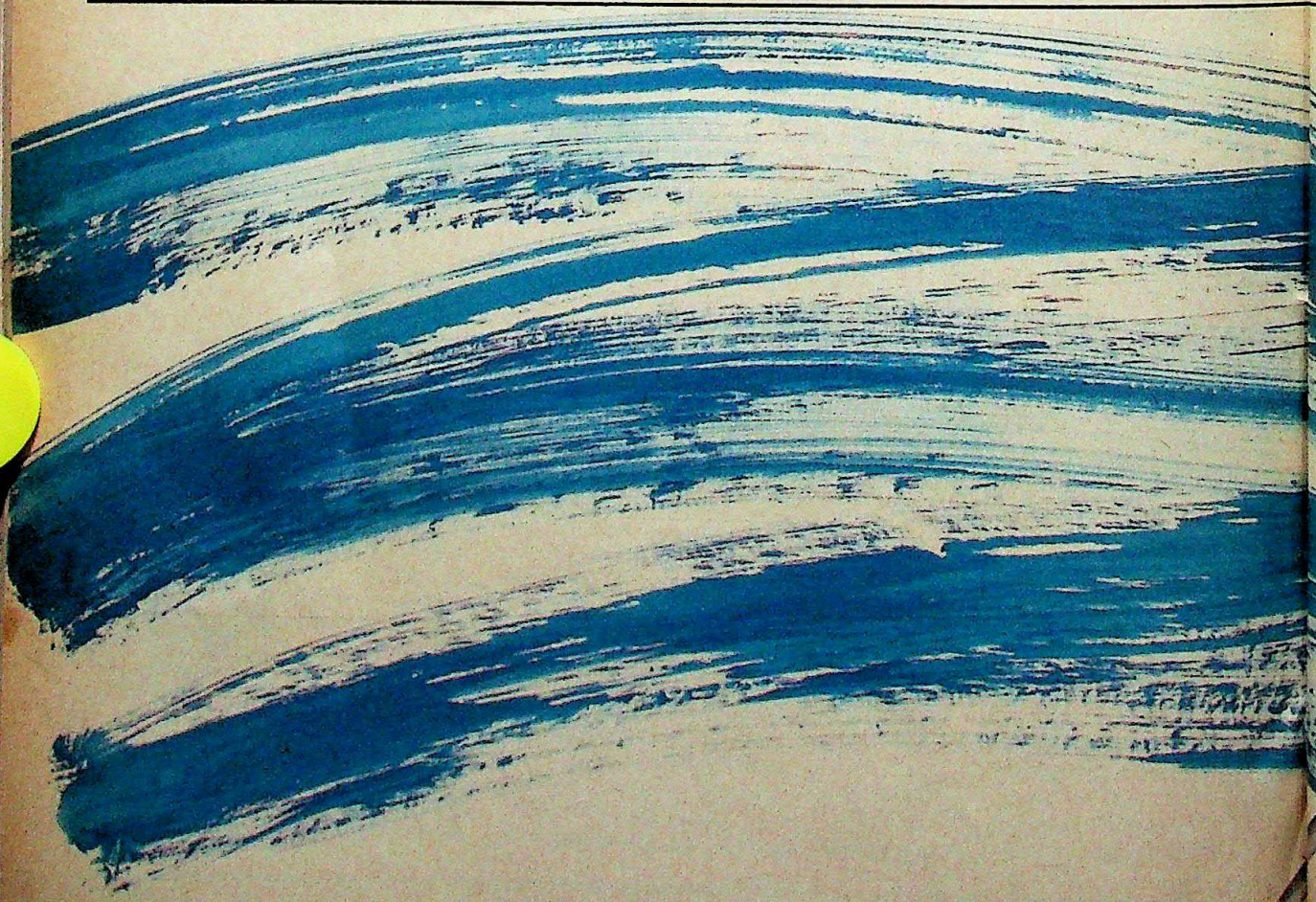
Experts say a good beer is judged by the clarity of its golden yellow colour, the retention of its 'head' or creamy foam at the top of the glass, and the flavour and aroma of the beer, which should be like a 'bouquet' of the malt, hops and other ingredients used to brew it. The drink should tingle the palate and give a feeling of fullness without tasting acidic or fruity. And it should not leave an after-taste. The beer family is extensive. Lagers are beers with a low alcohol content of around 3 to 5 per cent. Pilsners, were originally made in Pils in Czechoslovakia and derive the

"new thrust area" after it registered a phenomenal 32 per cent rise in beer sales last year. Not only did it carve out an independent division in April, it is also modernising its existing three breweries and acquiring a fourth one. And it is planning a technical tie-up with global beer giant Guinness for better quality beer. UB and Meakin haven't been silent either. UB is adding one more brewery to its 10 and modernising most of its existing plants. So is Meakin.

On the ground, a fierce battle has broken out between the top contenders. With Maharashtra opening up, UB is carting beer all the way from Faridabad and Punjab to the state. Result: UB sales in the state have registered a 30 per cent increase. But in Tamil Nadu, Meakin, which has an associate brewery, cocked a snook at UB, when levies on beer being brought in from other states shot up by Rs 2 last year. Sales of UB, which had to bring in beer from Kerala, stagnated while that of Meakin soared.

Despite the boom, beer industry representatives feel that sales would have been higher but for certain constraints. For one, they complain of a steep increase in beer prices with most states slapping heavy excise duties. In the capital, for instance, where beer is usually cheaper than elsewhere, it is up by Rs 2. "This is bound to hit sales badly," fumes Ravi Nanda, vice-president, Khoday Breweries.

Secondly, J.S. Dhamija, president of



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

name because of the characteristic water of the place. Ale is the English and Australian term for lager. Stout is usually dark, strong and bitter. Diet beers have a 30 per cent less calorific value than ordinary lager. Strong beers have an alcohol content of 5 to 8 per cent.

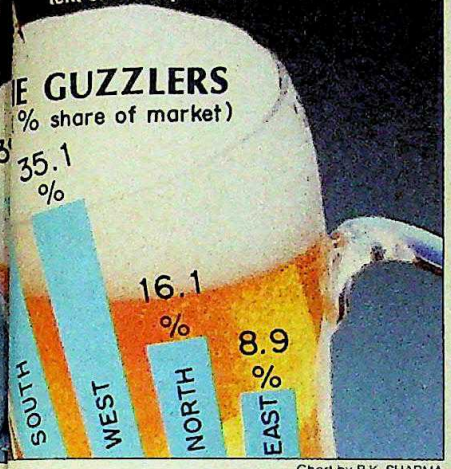


Chart by B.K. SHARMA

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

"More people are shifting from hard liquor to beer. And it's the favourite drink of youngsters now."

JOLLY BHARGAVA
Vice-president, Shaw Wallace

UB's breweries division, complains: "The Government still has a very cock-eyed policy on beer." He feels that apart from curbing production, the Government made marketing beer difficult by clubbing it with liquor. "It should be considered a food product instead," says Dhamija, who is also president of the All India Brewers Association. That would free beer from the tab of being called 'liquor' thereby allowing it to be stocked in general stores. Excise officials are, however, averse to that move because as one of them said: "Beer drinking usually opens the floodgates to hard liquor. We must have some sort of temperance programme on. And we raised beer prices to dampen sales."

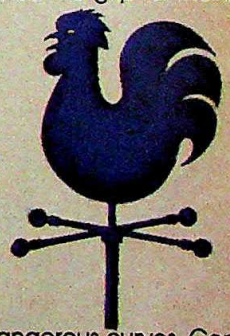
The immediate problem, however, is a shortage of hops, the key flavouring and aromatic agent in beer manufacture. The Kashmir valley produces most of the 250 tonnes of hops needed. But with trouble breaking out, the crop has been destroyed. The industry last month requested the Union Government to allow imports totalling Rs 10 crore. Otherwise as Dhamija says: "A Rs 500-crore industry would be in jeopardy."

While these factors may have caused the current boom to become a trifle flat, the industry is still highly optimistic. And the exuberant Mallya sums up the mood when he says: "Beer's future is simply fantastic."

—RAJ CHENGAPPA in Delhi and Bangalore with SHIV TANEJA in Bombay

IT ALWAYS REIGNS WHEN IT POURS

Even in the wettest driving conditions, a Goodyear tyre rides high and confident. Because Goodyear international technology has computer-designed a tread that promises better traction on wet roads. With a vice-like grip for those



dangerous curves. Come rain or storm, Goodyear ensures that you're home and dry.

GOODYEAR®

TAKE ME HOME

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Now, an exclusive new line of luggage that's worth a lot more than its looks.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

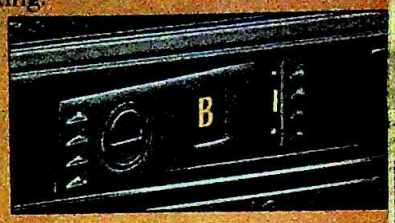
One glance at the Odyssey line of luggage and you'll know it's unlike anything you've ever seen before. The reasons aren't hard to find.

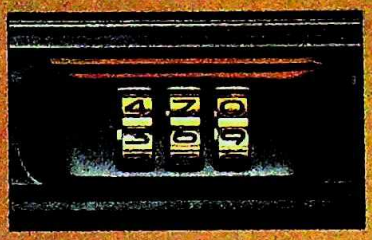
Like the best luggage the world over, Odyssey is made from ABS

A revolutionary new material that's incredibly tough yet amazingly light. And good looking.

No other luggage is so beautiful.

With its neat, dignified lines. Its understated elegance. The sleek contours. The luxurious finish. All of which give it that distinguished look.





You'll love those classy little touches

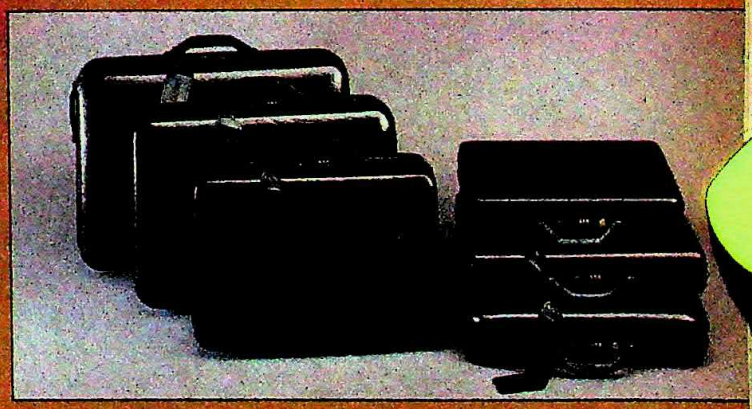
Like the sophisticated locking system: Soft eject locks that open silently. Plus, a centre combination lock for total security. And the matt finish frame.

Beautiful outside. Even more beautiful inside.

Open an Odyssey and you'll find... a rich suede lining. A divider for separating your papers from your clothes. A handy tie-rod. An elastic strap to hold things in place. Exclusive features designed with your needs in mind.

Odyssey. Luggage so exclusive, nothing else comes even close to it.

Come see our beautiful range of suitcases and briefcases.



Is this tag on your bag?

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Most of your baby's diet consists of water. Shouldn't you make sure it's really safe?

Your baby depends on you for care and nourishment. And despite a busy schedule, you make sure of utmost hygiene, knowing that safe drinking water is most important to the baby's health. You obviously take the trouble of filtering, boiling and cooling the water – everyday.

And yet you cannot totally eliminate the risk of water getting recontaminated while cooling, handling or when stored.

Aquaguard is uniquely designed to give you clear, safe, ready-to-drink water, at the flick of a switch!

No more tedious boiling and waiting for the water to cool. You can use it directly to prepare your baby's feed, anytime of the day or night!

Give your family the confidence of water from Aquaguard.

For a free demonstration at your home, write to:

EUREKA FORBES LIMITED
P.O. Box 936, G.P.O., Bombay 400 001.

Contact your nearest AQUAGUARD office today!

Ahmedabad: 446982; Bangalore: 211738; Baroda: 322681; Bombay: 2047870; Calcutta: 347799; Cochin: 352736; Coimbatore: 43180; Delhi: 6416143; Faridabad: 8257001; Goa: 6867; Hubli: 73291; Hyderabad: 844128; Jaipur: 70205; Jamshedpur: 24470; Ludhiana: 26877; Madras: 8250854; Mangalore: 32445; Pune: 667968; Surat: 54224; Trichy: 41867; Trivandrum: 79570-Vijayawada: 475964; Vishakapatnam: 53009.

Aquaguard for clear, safe drinking water.

On-line water filter-cum-purifier

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

FUTILE DRILL

THE attempt to involve the Indian private sector in oil exploration has made little headway, as the experience of Hindustan Oil Exploration Company (HOEC) clearly shows. Set up more than six years ago, the private company—whose vice-chairman is the renowned H.T. Parekh of Housing Development Finance Corporation—had raised Rs 10 crore in share capital in February, hoping to receive official approval for three schemes: a tie-up with the multinational International Petroleum Ltd for exploring a section of the Krishna-Godavari basin, a memorandum of understanding with the public sector Oil India Ltd and a licence to explore the Kachch basin in Gujarat. The former petroleum secretary H.K. Khan had assured the company in September last that all three proposals would be cleared. Then the Government changed and no further progress was made. The current bosses in the Petroleum Ministry are busy re-examining all three schemes. Still, HOEC Managing Director Ajit C. Kapadia is optimistic that these clearances will come through soon. He believes there has to be a quantum jump in oil exploration activities if India is to meet her future energy needs and that this will not be possible using government funds alone.

THE GOLD RUSH

AMERICAN Express is going to try out a novel scheme to attract hard currency deposits from well-heeled NRIs. So far, the efforts of State Bank of India among Indian banks, and Citibank among foreign banks, to attract deposits in high-yielding Foreign Currency Non-Resident (FCNR) accounts have been particularly successful.

Amex obviously does not want to be left behind in the race. Hence the lollipop it is holding out: a 'prestigious' Amex Gold Card scheme which will provide an account-holder a host of fringe benefits—including quick checking-in at airports, priority bookings in airlines, kid-glove treatment in hotels and, not to forget, easy credit facilities. But, as with all good things, there's a string attached. The minimum amount that will have to be deposited by an FCNR account-holder to make him or her eligible for a Gold Card is a steep $25,000 or over Rs 4.3 lakh.

The scheme, which is being given the final touches now, is expected to be launched by the end of the year.

INDUSTRIOUS STATE

THE industrialisation of Maharashtra, India's most industrialised state, continues unabated. The latest move of the state's industrial development corporation is to establish what is being touted as "Asia's largest industrial estate" on a 5,000-acre zone at Butibori village, 20 km from Nagpur.

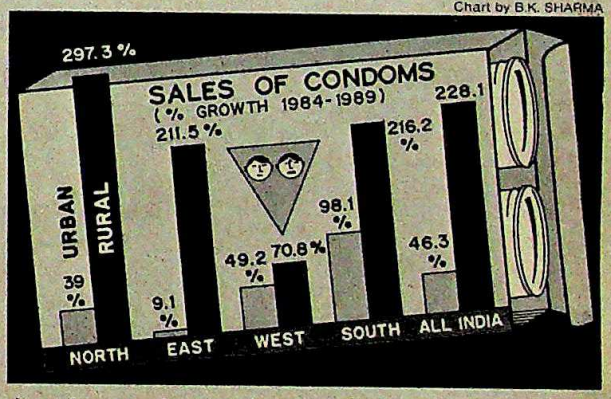
The area happens to be a power-surplus one and the state Government is especially keen on establishing steel manufacturing plants in the estate. Two steel plants—those of Sunflag and Nippon Denro Ispat—are already in existence and two more are being set up by Integrated Steel and Inland Steel. Further this estate is said to be ideal for engineering units, particularly those making electrical equipment.

That's not the only ambitious plan the Maharashtra Government has on the anvil. The state is keen on developing Jaigad in Ratnagiri district as a centre for chemicals and petrochemicals units. Bayer India has already identified 200 acres at this place where it hopes to invest some Rs 800 crore in a plant to produce rubber chemicals and pesticides. The company is, however, yet to obtain a licence for the project.

RURAL RESTRAINT

THE family planning drive seems to be spreading faster through India's villages than its cities. At least this is what figures of condom sales indicate. According to a recent audit of retail outlets conducted by the Vadodara-based Operations Research Group, between 1984 and 1989,

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



the urban condom market grew by less than 50 per cent whereas the rural market jumped by well over 200 per cent. In this period, condom sales in rural areas as a proportion of total sales rose impressively from 18.3 per cent to 33.5 per cent. The growth was the highest in the northern and eastern regions and the lowest in western India.

WRITE TRACK

HAVING established a commanding position in the writing instruments market in the country, the Rs 21-crore Delhi-based Luxor Pen Company has drawn up ambitious plans of expanding outside Indian shores. The company intends transferring technology for manufacture of pens to Zambia through Tata Exports. Components worth Rs 5 crore are also going to be exported. Then, Luxor is setting up a joint venture in the Soviet Union which will export its output to European and Middle Eastern countries. Further, it is currently negotiating with the Chinese Government for an interesting technology barter deal. The Indian company will export technology to produce fibre-tips of pens and in return, it hopes to obtain plastic injection-moulding technology from China.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

WITHDRAWING YOUR MONEY FROM THE HIGH INTEREST EASY ACCESS DEPOSIT IS AS EASY AS EATING THIS

It's simply amazing! You earn high interest on the Easy Access Deposit. But what's more, you can withdraw money (upto 75% of your deposit) against it. Anytime at all. Merely by signing a cheque.

You can place this deposit for just 46 days. Or much longer. Earning high interest for the full term on your entire deposit.

If you withdraw against the deposit, you need to pay only a concessional interest rate (2% over the simple rate of your deposit) only on the amount you withdraw. And for the period it stays withdrawn.

You will find this most useful when you want to make a tax saving investment.

So mail us this coupon. Or contact our Customer Services Officer at your nearest branch. Today.

EASY ACCESS DEPOSIT

ITO

Marketing Manager-India, ANZ Grindlays Bank,
132 Mint Road, Bombay 400 001.
Yes, I am interested in the ANZ Grindlays Easy Access Deposit. Please send me more information.

Name: _____

Address: _____

_____

_____ Phone: _____

ANZ Grindlays Bank

ANZ Grindlays Main Branches: BOMBAY — 90, M.G. Road, Ph: 270162. ☐ CALCUTTA — 19, N.S. Road, Ph: 208346. ☐ DELHI — 10, Sansad Marg, Ph: 312004. ☐ MADRAS — 19, Rajaji Salai, Ph: 589131. ☐ AMRITSAR — Gandhi Bazar, Ph: 43217. ☐ BANGALORE — Mission Road, Ph: 220300. ☐ COCHIN — Bristow Road, Ph: 69582. ☐ DARJEELING — 49, Laden La Road, Ph: 2777. ☐ GUWAHATI — Fancy Bazar, Ph: 27018. ☐ HYDERABAD — Abids, Ph: 237506. ☐ KANPUR — 16, M.G. Road, Ph: 211462. ☐ SHIMLA — The Mall, Ph: 3025. ☐ SRINAGAR — Sherwani Road, Ph: 76935. ☐ TUTICORIN — 44, Beach Road, Ph: 20817.

SPEER 28 180 90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDUSTRIAL POLICY

Opening New Doors

Wafts of economic liberalisation in the air

THE signals, it seemed, were just not right. When the National Front Government took office, most businessmen believed that the new rulers' socialist rhetoric would result in stalling liberalisation, if not reversing it. But wait. All of them have been proved wrong.

Last fortnight, in a significant policy change, the Government opened the doors of the economy further and made efforts to remove bureaucratic hurdles which were hampering the speedy establishment of industrial units. In order to infuse greater competition in domestic industry, foreign investment was sought to be made more attractive. At the same time, in keeping with its pre-election manifesto, the Government has provided a number of sops to small and agro-based industries.

With this one move, it is believed, more than 85 per cent of the project proposals pending with the Industry Ministry will henceforth not need licences. That means bad news for the touts hanging around the corridors of Udyog Bhavan. Significantly, these project proposals account for only 30 per cent of the total investment envisaged. In other words, the new policy will cut red tape mainly for medium and small units, not large ones.

"This is only the beginning. A lot more needs to be done," said a visibly satisfied Industry Minister Ajit Singh at a press conference. His pragmatic approach has been hailed by industry spokesmen. Says D.H. Pai Panandiker, secretary-general of the Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry: "The changes were much more than what we were expecting from Ajit Singh's own statements."

The range of concessions provided certainly seems to be impressive:

► All new units involving an investment of up to Rs 25 crore in fixed assets in non-backward areas and Rs 75 crore in centrally-notified backward areas won't need licences or registration; the earlier limits were Rs 15 crore and Rs 60 crore respectively.

► Such investments will also be exempt from the 'convertibility clause' which enables a state-owned financial institution to convert a portion of the term loan extended into equity shares; this is ostensibly intended to provide management stability and prevent unwanted take-overs.

► An entrepreneur can conclude a foreign collaboration without official clearance if royalty payment does not exceed 5 per cent of domestic sales and 8 per cent of export sales and no lump sum payment for technology transfer is involved; even where lump sum payment is proposed, the Government will give its decision on the collaboration in a month.

► Foreign concerns can invest up to 40 per cent in the equity of an Indian company without official approval provided imported capital goods do not exceed 30 per cent of the total value of plant and machinery.

► Easier access is provided to imported raw materials.

► A whole host of concessions have been granted to the small-scale sector, including a hike in the ceilings on investment, simplification of procedures and re-introduction of Central Government subsidy which was withdrawn last year.

► Units in free trade zones as well as 100 per cent export-oriented units are being de-licensed up to an investment limit of Rs 75 crore.

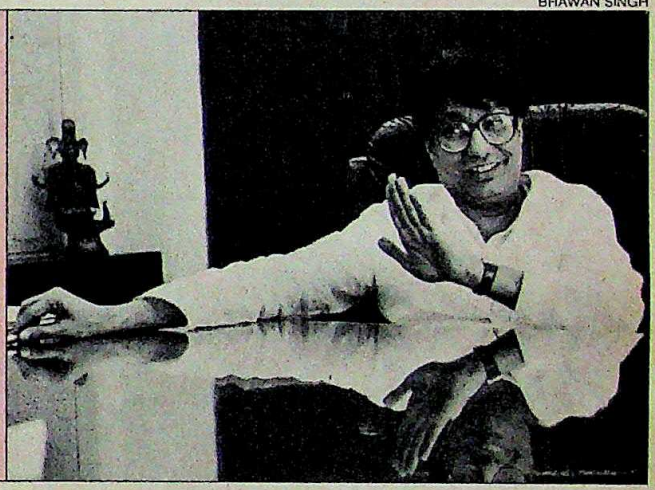
Explaining the rationale behind the new policy, Industry Secretary A.N. Verma says the Government has tried to make rules and regulations more transparent and free investors from bureaucratic shackles. "Simultaneously we are sending a clear message to industry about which areas of investment are favoured and which aren't," says he. Bankers too are happy. "It's a balanced policy," remarks State Bank of India Chairman M.N. Goiporia.

The new policy also makes it apparent that the Government feels that mere de-licensing of industries is not enough but that controls on imports of capital goods and restrictions on location of industries need to be loosened.

The policy we've formulated is only the start. It is not a comprehensive measure—a lot more remains to be done.

AJIT SINGH
Industry Minister

BHAWAN SINGH



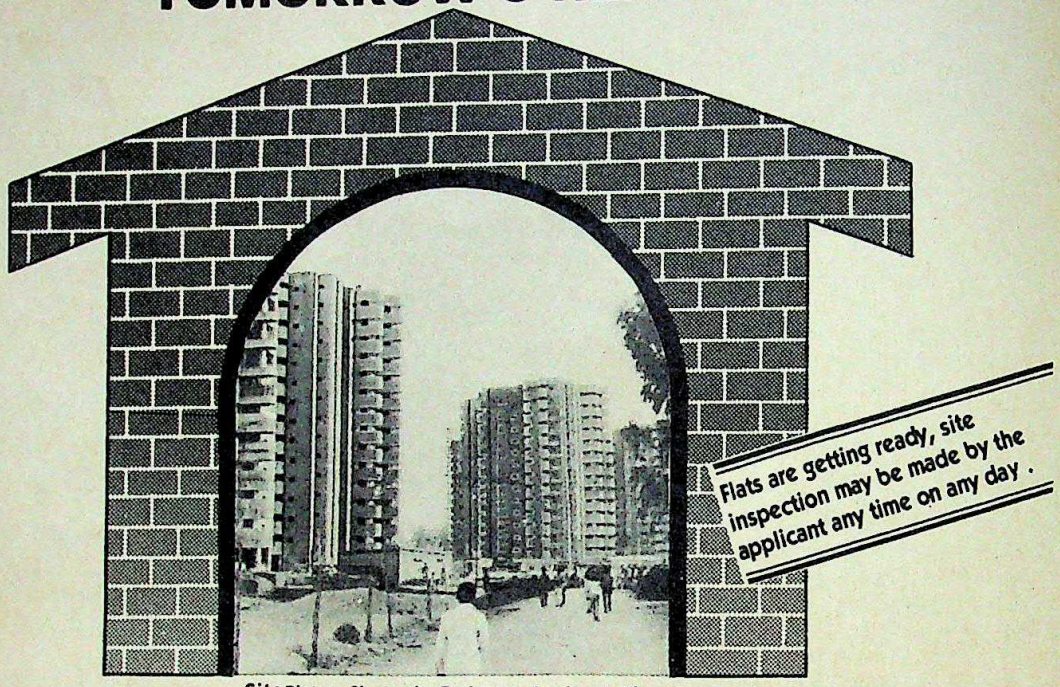
HIGHLIGHTS OF INDUSTRIAL POLICY CHANGES

- ☐ Higher investment limit for small and medium units.
- ☐ Stress on technology upgradation and simplification of procedures, especially for the small-scale sector.
- ☐ Easier norms for technology transfer.
- ☐ De-licensing of 100 per cent export-oriented units and units in export processing zones.
- ☐ Automatic approval of foreign equity up to 40 per cent.
- ☐ Easier access to imported capital goods, raw materials.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

TODAY'S DREAM... TOMORROW'S REALITY



Site Picture Shows the Project under Constrution

KAUSHAMBI

APARTMENTS PHASE-IV

Kaushambi Apartments, are set amidst undulating greens, with all comforts and conveniences built in. In addition, they offer a futuristic advantage, with proximity to a host of facilities, slated for development in nearby Delhi-an Inter-State Bus Terminus, a Railway Station just 2 kms. away at Anand Vihar, Laxmi Nagar District Centre, Patparganj Industrial Area and the hub of posh colonies of East Delhi such as Preet Vihar, Pushpanjali, Gagan Vihar, Nirman Vihar, Vivek Vihar, to name a few.

Accommodation	No. of Houses	Covered area (in sp. mt.)	Cost of apartment in Rs.	Registration Amount (10% +Rs. 20/-)
Single room Suite/guest house	400	27.87	1,90,000	19,020.00
Three roomed ordinary apartment	200	57.59	3,80,000	38,020.00
Composite Deluxe Type Double roomed apartment (Deluxe) Two bedrooms drawing dining and accessories.	100	84.72	4,90,000	49,020.00
Three roomed apartment (Deluxe) 2 bedrooms, drawing/dining, lounge & accessories	75	113.34	6,45,000	64,520.00
Four roomed apartment (Deluxe) Three bedrooms, drawing-dining, lounge & accessories	50	134.24	7,45,000	74,520.00

- **Lush Green surroundings.**
- **All facilities, just at a stone's throw distance.**
- **Well planned and laid out.**
- **Aesthetically pleasing.**
- **Ideally located in Delhi Metropolitan area.**
- **Just 10 minutes drive from Connaught Place.**

REGISTRATION 12-6-90 TO 11-7-90

- **20% Reservation on Cash down Payment**
- **Possession Dec. 1991**
- **Payment in 2 Years (In Six monthly Instalments)**

R.B. Morya
Secretary

P.N. Misra
Vice Chairman

Ghaziabad Development Authority

Vikas Path, Ghaziabad.

A beautiful City—our commitment.

Registration booklet can be had from following branches on Payment of Rs. 35/- (Thirty five) only. & also can be obtained by sending Money order of Rs. 45/- (Forty five) to ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE, Lohiya Nagar, Ghaziabad (U.P.)

ORIENTAL BANK OF COMMERCE

Ghaziabad : B-193 Lohia Nagar (Rahool Palace), **NEW DELHI** : A-30 to 33 First floor Connaught Place. Priya Cinema Complex First Floor, Basant Lok. **DELHI** : Darya Ganj, Netaji Subhash Marg, F-6/7, Vijay Chowk, Laxminagar, **BOMBAY** :1, Dr.V.B. Ghandi Marg, Fort, **MADRAS** : 769, Anna Salai, Mount Road. **CALCUTTA** : 25, Thapar House, Brabourne Road. **AMRITSAR** : Civil Lines Queen's Road. **PATIALA** : Chaura Bazar. **CHANDIGARH** : Sector 17-B **LUCKNOW** : 34, Mahatama Gandhi Marg, Hazrat Ganj. **KANPUR** : The Mall.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Earlier, investors in even de-licensed industries needed to run to the Government for permission to import capital goods or had to apply to the Foreign Investment Board if a collaboration was involved.

Overnight all that has changed. An entrepreneur is today far less hamstrung in striking an agreement with a foreign collaborator. Also, it is simpler to set up units anywhere in the country. Says a beaming C. Sivasankaran, director of the Madras-based Sterling Computers Ltd: "The new policy thankfully takes away the discretionary powers of the babus to interfere in and stall foreign collaborations."

Many see the concessions granted to foreign investors as India's response to the Super 301 threat held out by the US Administration. Admits a senior official in the Industry Ministry: "It was not consciously done to please the Americans. But it could help resolve the Super 301 crisis. The fact is that the recent policy change is primarily aimed at encouraging collaborations with small and medium-sized foreign firms rather than giant multinationals."

The Americans have so far adopted a cautiously optimistic stance to the changes. Says a US Embassy spokesman: "It's a useful step forward—by streamlining its investment policies, India is gradually responding to a new world of competitive markets." Certain heads of multinationals are also in an upbeat mood. Ken Bakshi, chairman of Cynamid India—a pharmaceuticals and pesticides company—sees growing opportunities in India, especially in medical devices and high-value speciality chemicals.

The latest official initiative underlines the continued need to simplify procedures and remove policy ambiguities. For instance, the Government had a plethora of lists which reserved the manufacture of various items for different categories of companies. There was one negative list of 26 industries, another list of de-licensed industries in which companies coming under the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices (MRTP) Act could invest and yet another meant exclusively for non-MRTP companies. Says Rakesh Mohan, economic adviser to the Industry Ministry: "Entrepreneurs were confused about the category in which their project fell and there was considerable overlapping".

NOW that will be replaced by a single list—the positive part of the list will specify those industries where investments will be encouraged and the negative part will mention areas in which investments will be discouraged. Mohan hopes this new list will "make things absolutely clear to investors".

The simplification of procedures will undoubtedly provide a fillip to the small-scale sector. Moreover, having reserved 836 items for exclusive manufacture in the small sector, the Government has said it will try to identify more items for similar reservation. Says D.K. Jain, president of Luxor Pen Company, a small-scale unit: "The previous investment limit discouraged us from modernising our plants for fear we might lose our small-scale status—with the hike in investment ceiling, such fears have been allayed."

For an official pronouncement, the new industrial policy statement is reasonably candid and clear. Yet, not everybody is equally happy. Some feel the policy changes should have been extended to companies under the Foreign Exchange Regulation Act (FERA) and the MRTP Act. "The initiatives are not bold enough," laments C.Y. Pal, chairman and managing director of Cadbury's India.

There is a view that import liberalisation may increase the outflow of foreign exchange. Industry Ministry officials, however, disagree. They contend that in any case half the projects being set up do not need to import equipment and components. Further, since the new scheme does not affect units accounting for 70 per cent of the value of imports of capital goods, it won't seriously affect the balance of payments. On the other hand, it may encourage investors to be more prudent in importing capital goods lest they exceed the ceilings, officials argue.

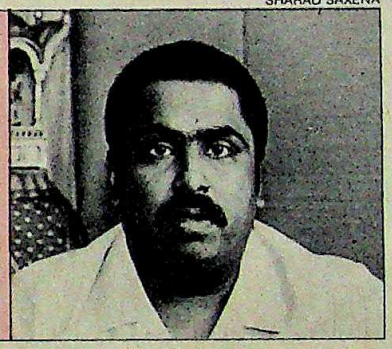
Though the policy changes are ostensibly aimed at helping the small sector, some small entrepreneurs fear the hike in the investment limits may encourage big business houses to enter areas reserved for them through the backdoor, that is, through ancillary and front firms. Says a Bombay-based cotton garments exporter: "The policy will only benefit large companies which have developed strong links with the small-scale sector to save on taxes."

Despite such criticism, it cannot be denied that the Government is earnest about reducing bureaucratic controls on business. In recent times, it has liberalised licensing of steel units and eased locational norms for sugar mills. It is also planning to allow more private companies to set up power plants and let them actively participate in oil and gas distribution. In other words, the recent changes are an assertion of the Government's perception that the Indian economy needs to be further opened up.

When questioned by INDIA TODAY about why the liberalisation process slowed down during the last years of the Rajiv Gandhi regime, Prime Minister V.P. Singh retorted: "Am I to answer for (what did not take place during) the three years I was not in power"? But now that he is very much at the helm of affairs, he surely means serious business.

—SURAJEET DAS GUPTA and SHIV TANEJA with bureau reports

SHARAD SAXENA



Thankfully, the power of the babus has been reduced.

C. SIVASANKARAN
Director, Sterling Computers Ltd

PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

The previous investment limit was too small to permit modernisation.

D.K. JAIN
President, Luxor Pen Company

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

INDIA
BEGINS
TO SHRINK
TODAY

Distances will be measured not in kilometres, but in seconds. As computers begin to communicate with computers. Welcome to the world of Motorola Blue Star, a new company created by Motorola USA and Blue Star India. A company that can link your computers from across the hall to across the country. Motorola Blue Star, in Bangalore, will soon manufacture a wide range of Codex networking equipment. Codex, a subsidiary of Motorola, is known worldwide for their superior wide area networking systems. Their client list includes 90% of the Fortune 500 companies and thousands more around the globe. The same Codex equipment is now available to you.

MOTOROLA BLUE STAR
The Communication Link

LINTAS (DELHI) MOT-B/1/2417

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

GROUP-15 SUMMIT

A Promising Start

Third World 'action group' gets down to business

AS summits go, the meeting of Group-15 too was a typical talkathon. But there was a difference: the first summit meeting of the 'action group' of the Third World went beyond mere statements of intent and pious resolutions.

Headlines the world over may have been hogged by the Bush-Gorbachev meeting. But in the picturesque Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, representatives of 15 developing countries were thrashing out schemes to enhance South-South cooperation.

Amid tight security, the G-15 which comprises a diverse bunch of nations—Algeria, Argentina, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Jamaica, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Senegal, Venezuela, Yugoslavia and Zimbabwe—agreed to immediately establish a series of projects. These include schemes to improve trade financing arrangements, a data bank for exchange of economic information and a forum for businessmen. Also on the anvil are projects to enhance cooperation in scientific research, develop solar energy and a gene bank.

Predictably, most countries highlighted their own concerns. So at a press conference at the close of the summit, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad stressed: "If we agree that a cartel of producers or sellers is bad, we should also object to a buyers' cartel." Elaborating, he added that one such buyers' cartel was the London Metal Exchange which controlled the international prices of tin (Malaysia is a major tin producer).

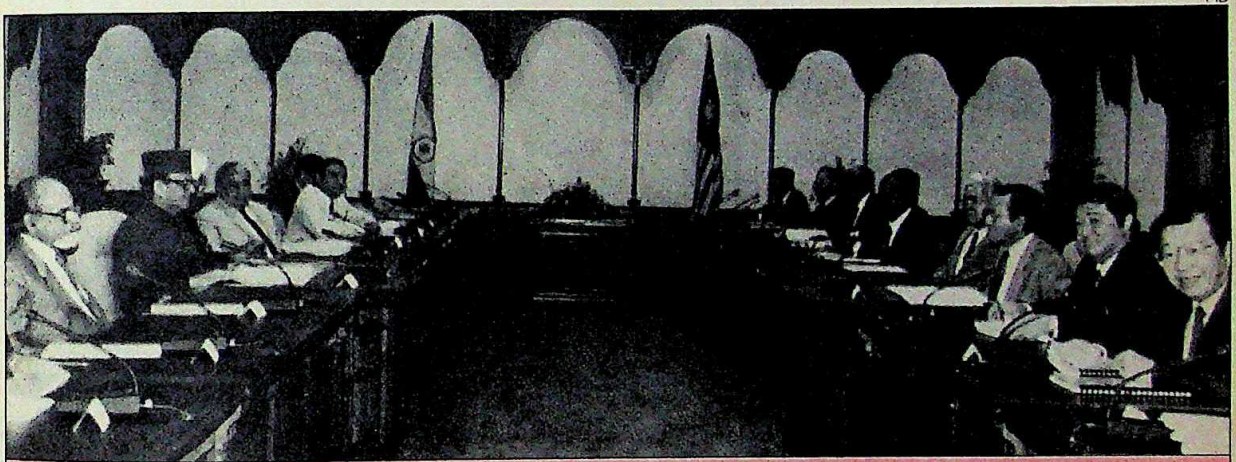
When Indian journalists quizzed Mahathir about whether the G-15 had discussed issues relating to intellectual property rights and the need to restructure the ground rules of world trade under the General Agreement on Trade and Tariffs (GATT) he gave the impression that these topics had only been touched in passing.

But the text of the joint communique issued by the 15 countries suggests otherwise. That the communique stressed all these points—which are crucial to India—was not surprising as the document was prepared largely under the supervision of Indian Foreign Secretary Muchkund Dubey. And in an obvious reference to the Super 301 threat held out by the US, the document decried "recent trends towards unilateralism and selective bilateralism".

Predictably, the communique asked the developed world to adopt a more flexible approach to the debt problem. The G-15 felt that "a positive approach and not punitive measures" was needed to handle the issue of arrears with multilateral financial institutions.

As similar gatherings have yielded far less this was pretty good going for a summit which lasted only three days. Especially as developing nations went beyond their individual differences—not by papering them over but by identifying common concerns. It was repeatedly stressed that the G-15 would not act as a parallel force to the Group of 77, the Non-Aligned Meet or even the South Commission. To negotiate with the North, the G-15 decided to constitute a smaller group of five. But Mahathir stressed: "North-South dialogue should be preceded by South-South cooperation.

PIB



For V.P. Singh, the meet provided an opportunity to explain India's stand on Kashmir to five members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference.

■ The Indian and Malaysian delegations hold talks: identifying common concerns

For V.P. Singh the summit and the two-day bilateral visit that followed—his first since coming to power—was particularly useful. Though Singh maintained a somewhat low profile—while his wife Sita Kumari received far more attention in the Malaysian media—he was able to work out a deal with Senegal for equity participation in a phosphate venture and discuss ways of improving Indo-Malaysian economic cooperation *(see box)*.

But the political gains were greater. Singh got an opportunity to explain India's position on Kashmir to five members of the Organisation of Islamic Conference: Malaysia, Indonesia, Egypt, Senegal and Nigeria. Still, the dispute over Malaysia providing military training to the racist government in Fiji was ignored.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

There were other, less-tangible gains. V.P. Singh's aides like Montek Singh Ahluwalia and Ronen Sen believe that he was able to appreciate how the dismantling of bureaucratic controls—be it in Malaysia, Yugoslavia or Argentina—has helped spur industrial growth. And nobody missed Finance Secretary Bimal Jalan during the deliberations. Reason: his name was visible all over Kuala Lumpur as jalan means road in the Malaysian language.

But it was on his flight back home that Singh really came into his element. His Information Adviser Prem Shankar Jha informed journalists that his concluding tete-a-tete with them would be off-the-record. At first, in response to the questions on the former governors of Punjab and Kashmir, the prime minister gave non-committal mono syllabic answers. Then came a question on whether he favoured the formation of a national government. Singh burst out: "I dream of the time the country will unite on issues... when personalities will cease to matter...if I'm hampering a consensus on national issues, I'll step down...the sky will not fall if this government goes... the country is bigger than any government or any person." The stunned scribes then asked Singh to say everything on the record. He agreed. The arc lights came on, tape-recorders were pulled out and Doordarshan's cameras whirred.

Singh was clearly trying to pre-empt any conspiracy that might have been brewing during his five days away from the capital.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA
in Kuala Lumpur

PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA

V.P. Singh in Kuala Lumpur

INDIA-MALAYSIA

Trade Talk

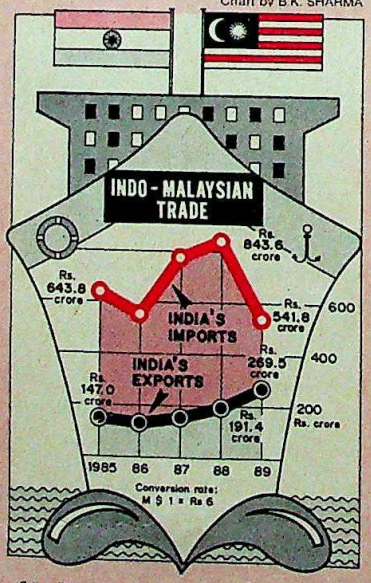
EVEN as the Group-15 summit waxed eloquent on the need to step up South-South cooperation, the bilateral meet between India and Malaysia highlighted the constraints hampering economic relations between the two Asian bigwigs.

Malaysia is the world's largest exporter of palm oil; over two-thirds of Indian imports from the country is palm oil. The balance of trade has consistently been in favour of Malaysia though the deficit came down in 1989 after having gone up between 1986 and 1988. One suggestion made was that India could increase palm oil purchases if Malaysia bought more of this country's surplus groundnut oil.

Even if that does not happen, a positive gain of the bilateral talks was that V.P. Singh convinced his Malaysian counterpart, Mahathir Mohamad, that redressing the trade deficit should not come in the way of increasing trade. "We do not want to achieve trade balance at the cost of trade stagnation," Singh told Mahathir. One sop that India would provide is more seats for Malaysian students in Indian medical colleges; right now there are 1,200 medical students in India.

There are shining examples of the Indian public sector setting up projects in Malaysia as part of a counter-trade deal: a Rs 19-crore advanced training centre set up by Hindustan Machine Tools (which Singh visited); a Rs 100-crore project of Indian Railways; and a Rs 200-crore programme of Bharat Heavy Electricals to revamp thermal power plants. Besides, Larsen & Toubro is building two bridges.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



The track record of Indian nationalised banks and insurance companies is far less impressive. More dismal is the performance of Indian joint ventures. In the last 12 years, 18 such enterprises have collapsed. These include ventures of large business houses like the Birlas, Thapars, Kirloskar, Thapar and EID Parry and smaller ones like Camlin, Gajra Gears and Phalton Sugar.

An official note says some of these units were victims of recession, others were ill-planned, lacked liquidity or belatedly discovered that demand was inadequate. For instance, certain textile and sugar units flopped because the machinery imported from India turned out to be substandard. "Indian joint ventures have to export out of Malaysia to be viable," said an official.

Barely eight joint ventures are in the pipeline, most of them pending for years. Of the 19 joint ventures in operation, the palm oil refining units of the Birla and Tata groups are doing well. The Tatas' vehicle project, after going through a rough patch, has picked up and today Tata vehicle chassis commands the second position in the Malaysian market. Other units performing creditably include those of Laxmi Textiles, the Sarabhais and Ranbaxy.

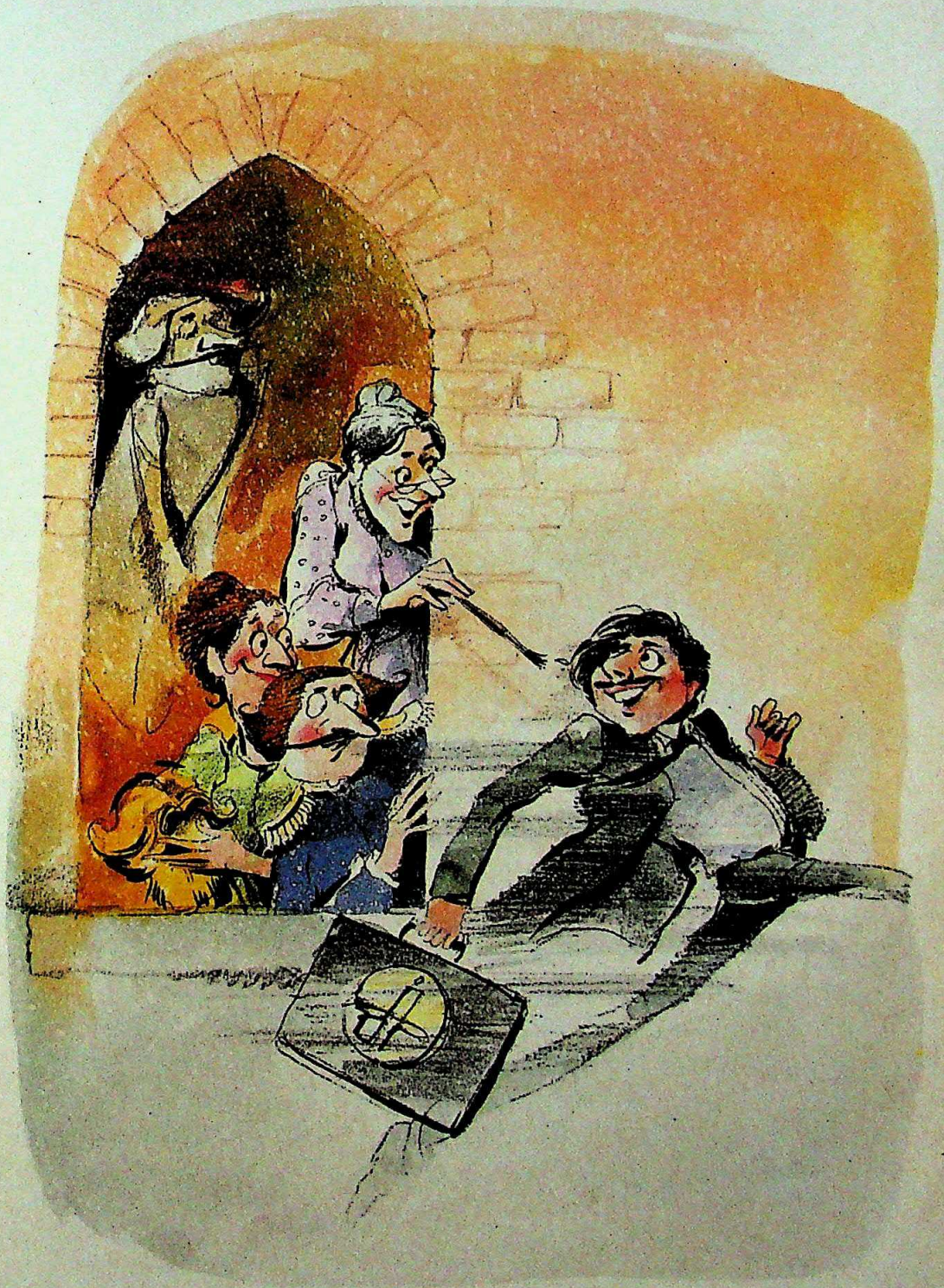
But this is small consolation. Indian investment in Malaysia is less than 0.4 per cent of that country's foreign investment. So even if Singh felt exuberant enough to say that Malaysia should be a development model for India, the two countries have far to go in forging closer ties. —PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

What did Madam Tussaud of London say to the Skypak Man?

"Your wax statue could look splendid! But would anyone ever recognize you in a static posture?"



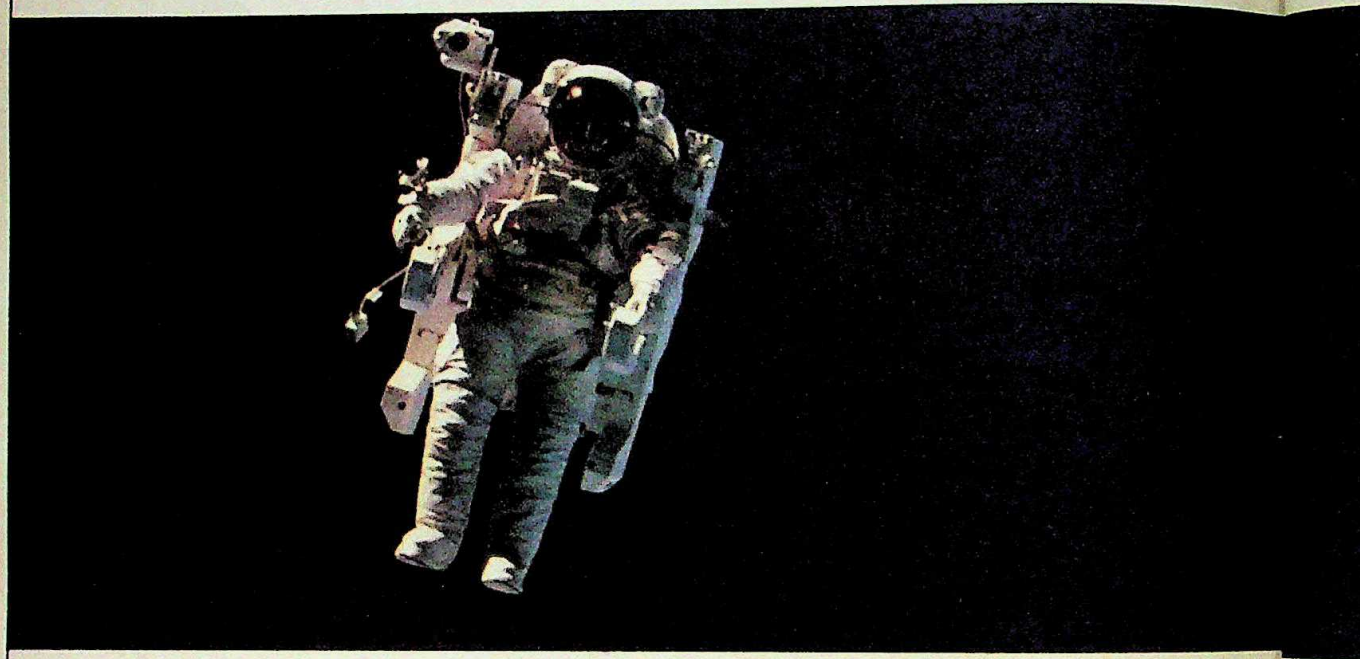
We'll deliver. Wherever on earth. SKYPAK The worldwide couriers.
Skypak House, Off M. Vassanji Road, Marol, Andheri (E), Bombay 400 059.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Avenues:SC:571:90

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CARRIER MAY HAVE TAILORED AIR CO DITI
THE QUESTION IS WHAT HAVE HEY



The answer is the widest range of multisplit air conditioners in India.

Available in capacities from 1 ton to 7.5 tons.

For offices. For hotels. For laboratories. For shops. For restaurants. Tailor-made to your requirements.

Let's take a closer look at what the Carrier Aircon multisplits offer.

A range of elegant configurations that cool space quietly, efficiently and unobtrusively.

The option of networking over 40 solutions upto 100 tons to solve any air conditioning problem you may face.

The modular flexibility of growing as your air conditioning requirements grow.

The option of selectively switching off air conditioning in

Contract CA 21946 A

THE STORY OF CARRIER IS THE STORY

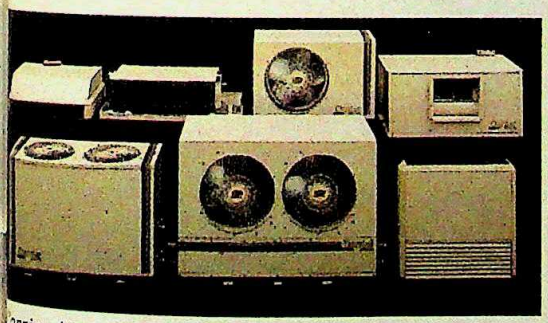
Delhi : Ph : 676285, 677392. Bombay : Ph : 2042091, 2042093. Madras : Ph : 861382, 861891. Calcutta : Ph : 749300, 750492. Bangalore : Ph : 264081. Hyderabad : Ph : 847763.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IR CONDITIONING FOR SPACE MISSIONS. HAVE THEY TAILORED FOR YOU?

Astronaut in Carrier comfort.



Carrier Aircon offer the widest range of multisplits in India.

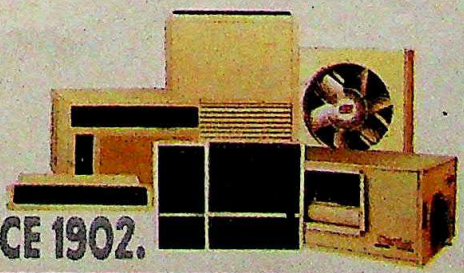
as where it's not required.

Energy efficiency and power-saving capabilities that ild slash your electricity bill.

And perhaps most importantly, the technology of the rld's No. 1 air conditioning company : Carrier.

But, beyond multisplits, there's much more to what Carrier Aircon offers. Be it the quiet Mistral; the robust Alpine power-saving air conditioners; efficient fan coil units; superior air handling units. And a steady range of new products to follow.

Because, no matter how you look at it, at Carrier Aircon the sky's no longer the limit.



F AIR CONDITIONING. SINCE 1902.

Carrier AIRCON

dabad : Ph : 460381. Lucknow : Ph : 72733. Chandigarh : Ph : 27447. Bhopal : Ph : 541623. Bhubaneswar : Ph : 55073. Guwahati : Ph : 22005. Jaipur : Ph : 74235.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MANUFACTURER-EXPORTER

Fortunately, the global market isn't as limiting as this sheet of paper.

Not when you're the Indian face of Unilever, one of the world's consumer-goods giants.

The Unilever Export Group in India. The nation's largest manufacturer-exporter.

The totality of Hindustan Lever Limited, Lipton India Limited, Brooke Bond India Limited, Pond's India Limited, and initiative unlimited.

With exports that brought in Rs.230 crores, in 1989.

Quality products. From blended and packaged tea, canned mushrooms, branded rice, and seafood, to cosmetics, personal-care products, garments, and footwear.

From 20 export-dedicated factories. And 70 export managers who define their business in two little words.

Value Addition.

THE UNILEVER EXPORT GROUP IN INDIA

Hindustan Lever Limited
Lipton India Limited
Brooke Bond India Limited
Pond's India Limited

THE LARGEST

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

AROMATICS PLANT

Complex War

Companies fight for clearance

IT'S a battle for high stakes: over Rs 1,200 crore, to be precise. The prize: official clearance for a two lakh-tonne petrochemicals complex to manufacture 'aromatics' including raw materials like purified terephthalic acid (PTA) used to produce synthetic fibres. Locking horns are J.K. Synthetics of the Singhania group which plans to establish its project at Saleempur in Uttar Pradesh and Southern Petrochemical Industries Corporation (SPIC) of the Madras-based M.A. Chidambaram group.

Late last month, the corporate conflagration took a new turn with Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi declaring publicly that the people of his state would not remain silent if the Central Government did not expeditiously clear the SPIC project at Manali near Madras—clearance for this project has been hanging fire for three years. Not to be left behind, Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Mulayam Singh Yadav shot off a letter to Prime Minister V.P. Singh arguing that the J.K. Synthetics project be given preference because it was crucial for the state's industrial development.

Last fortnight, Govind Hari Singhania, vice-chairman of J.K. Synthetics, met the Minister for Petroleum and Chemicals, M.S. Gurupadaswamy, to plead his case. And SPIC's vice-chairman A.C. Muthiah has found common ground with the Tamil Nadu chief minister—who is not exactly his best friend—to lobby for the Manali project. Says he: "Karunanidhi is personally taking up the matter with V.P. Singh."

The capital's rumour mills are working overtime to create an impression that SPIC is using its clout with Gurupadaswamy who hails from the south. Gurupadaswamy, however, says the allegations are baseless: "I won't be pressurised. My ministry is looking at all mega-projects and I have asked officials to prepare a note which will take into account the country's best interests."

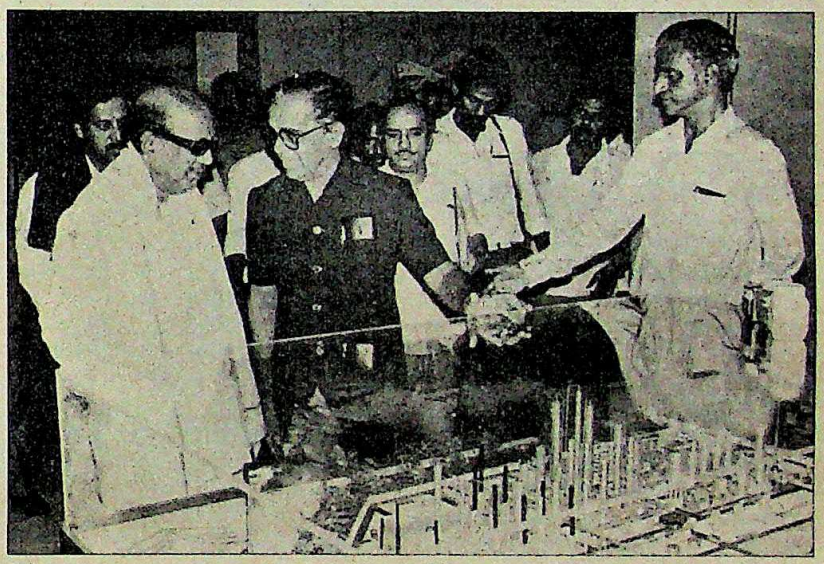
The rumpus over the two projects is not entirely without reason. Under the previous government, the state-owned Madras Refineries Ltd had been given a letter of intent way back in February 1987 to set up a large aromatics plant. The company then tied up with SPIC for a joint venture and promoted a new company last year, called National Aromatics and Petrochemicals Corporation (NAPCO). Last year in May, the Government also granted a letter of intent to J.K. Synthetics to set up a plant of similar capacity at Saleempur.

After the National Front Government came to power, it decided to review all major projects. In the process, it concluded that one project would be sufficient to meet future demand for PTA. Says a Planning Commission source: "We can't fritter away scarce foreign exchange resources on two petrochemicals plants when the demand for the next three years can be met by one plant."

The official has a point. According to industry estimates, demand for PTA and its substitutes will not exceed 5.3 lakh tonnes by 1993. Since the country already has a capacity of 4 lakh tonnes, there is scope for only one more project to come up. Demand is estimated to go up to 6.5 lakh tonnes by 1995-96 when a second project can come up.

Predictably, both companies are trying to convince the Government that their project is better. The Singhanias claim that the Saleempur project scores over NAPCO on several counts:

- There is greater demand for PTA in the north, so NAPCO's transportation costs will be higher.
- No government equity is involved in the Singhania project whereas NAPCO envisages a government investment of Rs 87 crore.
- While 800 acres have been allotted to the Singhania project, NAPCO is yet to acquire land.
- Power availability is better in Uttar Pradesh than in Tamil Nadu.



Karunanidhi inspecting model of plant: hard lobbying

> The high stakes battle between J.K. Synthetics and SPIC for an aromatics plant has turned into a political fight between two state governments.

- The Saleempur project is in a backward area and SPIC's plant isn't.
- The Singhania project costs Rs 1,200 crore while the NAPCO project costs Rs 1,356 crore.

NAPCO spokesmen disagree that its project is inferior in any way to the Saleempur one. And they point out that already technology has been selected and pollution clearances obtained. And Muthiah adds: "We will get land by August. There's no problem." He claims there is adequate demand for PTA in the south—Indian Organics will be consuming 40,000 tonnes Binnys and several textile units in Coimbatore are expected to pick up a major chunk, while the remaining 20 per cent will be exported.

Whether that happens or not, what is certain is that the last round in the corporate battle is yet to be concluded. —SURAJEET DAS GUPTA with ANAND VISWANATHAN

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Agitating employees: stubborn stance

INDIA METERS LIMITED

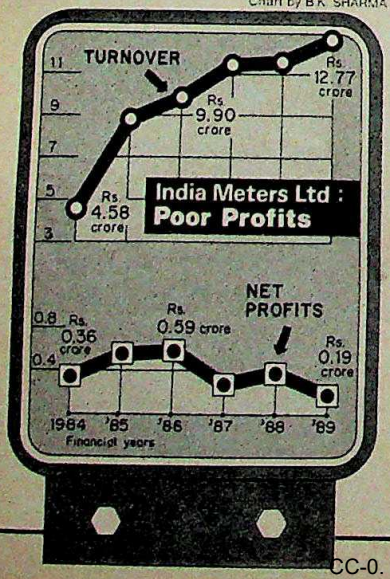
Labour Pains

Union wants managers out

AN agitation by a small group of workers of a Rs 11-crore company is hardly the stuff of headlines. But late last month, when 30 employees of the Madras-based India Meters Ltd (IML) demonstrated in New Delhi, they set off quite a few ripples. Reason: the three NRIs whom they want removed from the management of IML happen to be the offspring of very important people. One is K. Jayakar, son of V. Krishnamurthy, former chairman of the Steel Authority of India Ltd; the second is Krishnamurthy's nephew, V. Ramamurthy; and the third is R. Gowrishankar, son of G. Ramaswamy, former additional solicitor-general.

The story begins in December 1985 when the three NRIs offered to bring in fresh capital and take over IML in the name of Ergodyne Electricals Ltd, a Gurgaon-based manufacturer of miniature circuit breakers (MCBS), promoted by Gowrishankar. At that time, IML, which is almost entirely owned by the financial institutions, was being managed by Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) which was trying to get other firms to take it over. When that failed, the NRIs' proposal was accepted and Jayakar and Ramamurthy were inducted onto the board in 1985-86. Gowrishankar joined in July 1988 and was made managing director.

Chart by B.K. SHARMA



The union says the takeover was possible only because of Krishnamurthy's closeness to Rajiv Gandhi. It wants BHEL to take over the company but the Government is unlikely to agree: Industry Minister Ajit Singh is opposed to the Government taking over any more sick units. The union also alleges that the NRIs are trying to siphon off funds to Ergodyne. Says V.L. Antony, union general secretary: "They have transferred Rs 15 lakh from IML to Ergodyne even though the proposal to merge the two companies is pending with the Government. If this is not swindling, what is?"

Gowrishankar denies the charge. The merger proposal, he says, has been approved by the board and shareholders of IML and by the financial institutions and is awaiting official approval. The Rs 15 lakh transferred to Ergodyne, he says, is a trade deposit on which IML earns 15 per cent interest.

Irked by the charges, Gowrishankar quit as managing director on May 3. There is talk now of Krishnamurthy taking over as chairman.

That could be some time into the future. Meanwhile, the stalemate continues. —ANAND VISWANATHAN

MTNL

Warning Ring

Nigam's survival in doubt

TO be or not to be. For the Rs 1,140-crore public sector Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd (MTNL)—which operates the telecommunication systems in Delhi and Bombay—that indeed is the question. An influential section in the Government's Department of Telecommunications (DOT) wants to wind up the cash-rich company. And predictably, MTNL's bosses are fighting tooth and nail to ensure that their organisation not only survives but also expands its operations to other cities.

J. MISHRA

Last fortnight, the battle took a new turn with DOT officials leaking out selected portions of confidential correspondence to the press to bolster their contention that the four-year-old organisation should be wound up. MTNL sources claim that certain bigwigs in DOT are envious of the company's success and want to prevent it from extending its services to Calcutta and Madras.

The controversy has its origins in a note written to former communications minister K.P. Unnikrishnan by A.S. Wakhle, member, services, in the Telecom Commission. Wakhle had questioned the need to bring Calcutta and Madras into MTNL's fold on a number of grounds:

- An official committee, set up last year to suggest ways of improving the dismal performance of Calcutta telephones, had not recommended that Calcutta be placed under MTNL. Instead, it had recommended that an exclusive task force handle the task. It also argued that Calcutta's telephone system would in any case improve since DOT had cleared a proposal to replace one lakh antiquated lines with modern electronic equipment.
- It isn't MTNL alone which has improved its performance; so have telephone systems in cities other than Delhi and Bombay.
- MTNL's higher wages might irk DOT employees.

Wakhle also suggested that eight zonal corporations be set up after winding up MTNL. Senior officials in

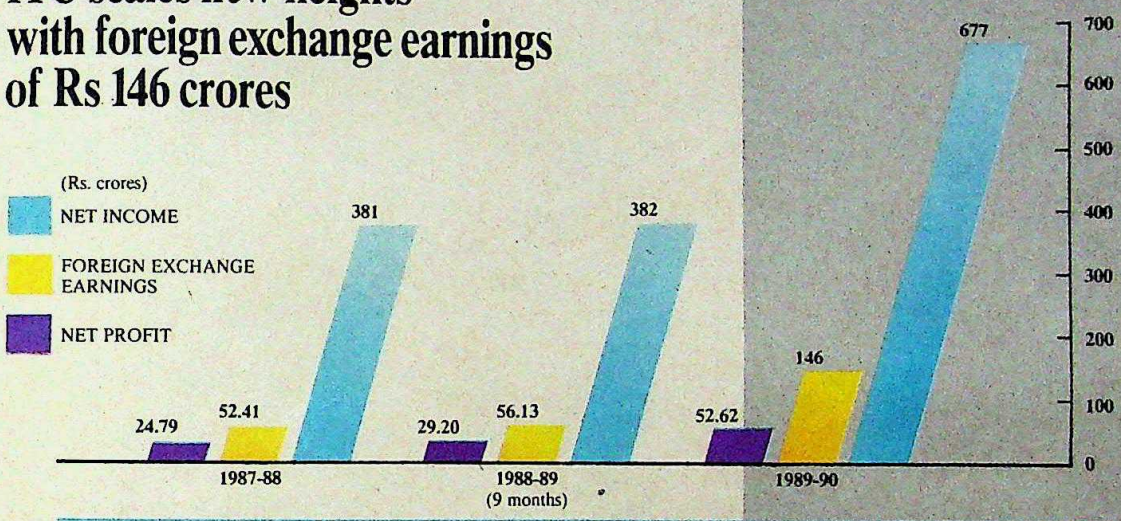
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Record all-round performance

I.T.C. Limited

ITC scales new heights with foreign exchange earnings of Rs 146 crores



Financial Results for the year to 31st March, 1990

		12 Months Ended 31.03.90 (Rs in Crores)	6 Months Ended 31.03.90 (Rs in Crores)	3 Months Ended 31.03.89 (Rs in Crores)	9 Months Ended 31.03.89 (Rs in Crores)
I	INCOME				
	Sales	1807.56	953.94	361.73	1058.65
	Other Income	19.74	7.81	2.53	8.99
	(A)	1827.30	961.75	364.26	1067.64
II	EXPENDITURE				
	Raw Materials, etc.	336.69	178.40	60.43	185.37
	Duties	1150.42	595.88	232.70	685.97
	Wages	64.71	31.73	10.52	38.14
	Interest	26.47	11.99	4.45	14.94
	Other Manufacturing, Selling, etc. Expenses	150.08	83.94	34.19	90.22
	(B)	1728.37	901.94	342.29	1014.64
III	GROSS PROFIT (A-B)	98.93	59.81	21.97	53.00
	Provision For Depreciation	8.31	4.21	1.94	5.79
	Provision For Taxation	38.00	23.35	5.25	18.01
IV	NET PROFIT (AFTER DEPRECIATION/TAXATION)	52.62	32.25	14.78	29.20
V	**FOREIGN EXCHANGE EARNED**	**145.97**	**94.31**	**24.77**	**56.13**

NOTE : The above is as per Stock Exchange Regulation and does not take into account the tax and excise claims disputed by the Company.

Registered Office:
Virginia House
37 Chowringhee Calcutta-700 071
Dated: 17th May, 1990

By order of the Board:
I.T.C. Limited
N.K. Ghoshal
Secretary

India Tobacco Division • Indian Leaf Tobacco Development Division • Packaging & Printing Division, • Agri-businesses Division • Welcomgroup—Hotels Division • Exports Division

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Some of your best ideas could be growing on your walls.

LINTAS M SCL P63 2436

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

your walls.

Introducing Wallscapes. Exclusive screen printed wall tiles from Spartek. In designs that let you create your own masterpieces on your walls. So, go ahead, mix and match – express yourself in your kitchen with Wallscapes. Who knows, it might even help you get more creative in your cooking.

Wallscapes are available in 200 x 200 mm size, conforming to international standards.

Wallscapes

TILES FOR DESIGNER WALLS

SPARTEK
Ceramics India Limited
52, Chamiers Road, Madras 600 028.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE MAGIC OF OLD SPICE MUSK

OLD SPICE MUSK
SPLASH ON THE
MASCULINE AROMA.
ON YOUR FACE.
ON YOUR BODY.
AND MAKE HER
SECRET FANTASIES
COME ALIVE.

ALSO AVAILABLE
BODY TALC
LATHER SHAVING CREAM
COLOGNE

musk

CHAITRA B OS 193R

A MENEZES-SHULTON ENTERPRISE

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DOT further point out that since MTNL is a company, it has to pay taxes to the Government—money which could be used to develop telecom facilities in rural India.

This is only one side of the story. A senior official in the Telecom Commission argues that the real reason why a section in DOT wants to decimate MTNL is that it is apprehensive of the company's growing clout—which is bound to increase once Madras and Calcutta come under it since the four cities together account for 60 per cent of the country's telephone lines. "If MTNL becomes a super body, the existence of DOT itself may be threatened," he says. Significantly, a note prepared by B.S. Murthy, member, production, in the commission, arguing in favour of extending MTNL to Calcutta and Madras had received the approval of Unnikrishnan in March.

And what does MTNL have to say about the hullabaloo? Declares M.P. Shukla, chairman, MTNL: "I will quit if the public feels I have not performed." In a letter written to commission Chairman Sam Pitroda on May 22, Shukla argues that "it would be wrong ...(for) DOT officials (to claim) that (the) increase in efficiency and productivity in other cities is comparable with Delhi and Bombay". Another internal note prepared by MTNL adds that comparing the much larger telephone systems of Delhi and Bombay with those of other cities is "odious".

Shukla also emphasises that the Cabinet proposal on the basis of which MTNL was constituted had categorically stated that the Central Government would compensate the taxes paid by the company. Shukla claims that DOT did not prepare the formal proposal that was required for MTNL to receive the government grants.

Yet MTNL seems to have received considerable political support and Wakhle's plans to curtail the company's growth may well come to naught. Last fortnight West Bengal Chief Minister Jyoti Basu is believed to have written to Prime Minister V.P. Singh urging him to expedite the extension of MTNL to Calcutta. The new Minister of State for Communications Janeshwar Mishra, who took over charge in early May, is keen to end the controversy. "The question of winding up MTNL is not even under consideration since it is performing well," he told INDIA TODAY. But will Mishra allow MTNL to expand as fast as it would like? That question remains unanswered.

—SURAJEET DAS GUPTA

ESSAR

Pay Dirt?

Prize tie-up with US firm

FOR the Rs 200-crore Bombay-based Essar group controlled by the Ruia family, it is a major coup. Last fortnight, Essar—which has interests in shipping, oil exploration and steel—tied up with the world's largest engineering consultancy organisation, the $5 billion (Rs 8,750 crore) Bechtel Corporation headquartered in San Fransisco, USA. The two will participate in at least two unique projects.

The first is a Rs 200-crore plant to produce four million tonnes of pellets a year using iron ore 'fines' at Kakinada port in Andhra Pradesh. Also to be constructed is a 240-km-long pipeline to transport the ore fines in the form of a slurry from the Bailadilla mines. Right now, only iron ore 'lumps' are exported to Japan; the fines are dumped.

This project, which will take under three years to set up, has been approved 'in principle' by the Central Government and is awaiting cabinet consent. Interestingly, a similar project to use Bailadilla's ore fines and dust had been proposed in 1971 by Bechtel. It was argued that since the ore fines have an iron content as high as 65 per cent, they should be converted into pellets which can be used by electric arc steel furnaces. But the scheme never got off the ground.

Around half the pellet output of the Kakinada plant will be shipped to Hazira in Gujarat where the Essar group has established a Rs 360-crore gas-based sponge iron plant—said to be among the world's largest. The rest of the pellets will be exported to the Middle East and South Asia.

The second project of the Essar group in which Bechtel is involved is even more ambitious. Essar recently pipped Larsen & Toubro in the race to establish a Rs 1,200-crore plant near Paradip in Orissa to convert bauxite into alumina. The annual capacity is nearly one million tonnes, three-fourths of which will be exported abroad for conversion into aluminium. The Essar and Bechtel groups also hope to establish a joint venture which will use its engineering expertise in India and abroad.

"We are poised to take advantage of a unique opportunity," says Clint Johnstone, Bechtel's senior vice-president, who was recently in India. Bechtel, which is a 92-year-old, closely-held concern with 19,000 employees, has so far participated in over 1,400 projects in 17 countries.

Bechtel's involvement in India dates back to 1955 when it helped build an oil refinery in Bombay. It also participated in the construction of Madras Refineries and the Tarapur nuclear power plant, and in the establishment of Engineers India Ltd in the '60s. In 1965, Bechtel was associated with the Haldia-Barauni-Kanpur pipeline. A decade later, it came under some flak from the J.N. Takru commission of inquiry which felt the pipeline had been built over coal-bearing areas.

But nothing much came of the inquiry and Bechtel was involved in other projects, including Kudremukh and the Hazira-Bijaipur-Jagdishpur pipeline. The group was also included in a September 1988 proposal submitted by the Hindujas to construct power plants, which was rejected.

But this time around, Bechtel is confident of hitting pay-dirt. Literally.

—PARANJOY GUHA THAKURTA
with bureau reports

ESSAR

With the Bechtel tie-up in the bag, Essar plans to set up two mega projects involving an investment of Rs 1,400 crore.

Ravi Kant Ruia: pulling off a coup

BECHTEL

CHAITRA B OS 193R

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THE MARKETS

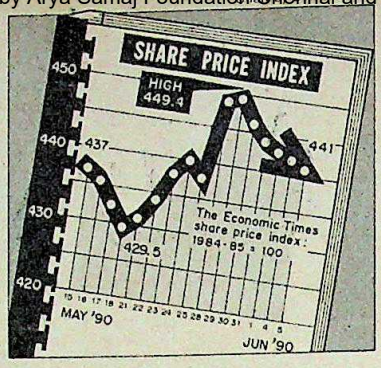
Bumpy Ride

Indices hit a peak, then slide

IT seemed too good to last. Last fortnight, just when it appeared that the country's capital markets had overcome the sluggishness that had manifested itself, the bears again got an upper hand. And share indices nosedived after an impressive rally.

After scrip values hit a peak in early April after the presentation of the budget, the state-owned financial institutions led by the Unit Trust of India (UTI) headed by S.A. Dave had gone on a selling spree. And market observers cribbed like hell about the so-called Dave factor and his penchant for "stabilising" the market. Few could have imagined that UTI and the institutions would return to the markets so soon to make substantial purchases. But that's exactly what happened.

The response was quick. On May 29, The *Economic Times* (ET) all-India share index soared to a new high of 449.4, more than six points above its previous April 4 peak of 443.1. The ET



index rose nearly nine points on a single day. Then, equally suddenly—to be precise, two days later—indices started sliding. By June 5, the ET index fell by more than eight points to 441.0.

The announcement of a liberalised industrial policy on May 31—which aims at further streamlining of bureaucratic procedures and removing hurdles on imports of capital goods by small and medium companies—had no effect on the markets five days after it was made by Industry Minister Ajit Singh. This gave an impression that there were strong impediments against a boom being sustained. At the close of the week ending June 1, equity indices were only marginally higher than in the previous week.

If anything, last fortnight's experience showed that the market continued to be largely influenced by the actions of the institutions. The fact was that while the institutions were buying heavily, they were also selling. What was unusual was that even as equity indices scaled new peaks, the values of several pivotal scrips remained far below their current year peaks. This, though the private corporate sector was notching up impressive profits.

Only a few scrips did reasonably well. Associated Cement's share price, which had been languishing, went up because market observers believe the company has improved its profitability and will return to the dividend list. TELCO also rose on expectations of improved results. And Tata Steel is likely to be eyed more covetously by the bulls as the time for announcing the company's annual results draws near.

On the other hand, cash-traded non-specified shares continued to drift after moving up initially on institutional purchases.

Overall, it was a bumpy ride. As temperatures rose, investors waited anxiously for what the monsoons would hold for them.

ACTIVE STOCKS

	1990 HIGH	1990 LOW	CLOSE 5.6.90	Change in Fortnight
Ashok Leyland	99.00	69.50	82.00	6.50 –
Associated Cement	499.00	325.00	489.00	26.00 +
Asian Paints	255.00	207.50	241.25	3.75 +
Atlas Copco	48.00	32.50	35.50	1.50 –
Bajaj Auto	472.50	355.00	460.00	17.50 +
Baroda Rayon	910.00	617.50	903.75	30.00 +
Bata India	83.00	62.50	66.00	5.00 –
Ballarpur	172.00	120.00	164.50	9.50 +
Birla Jute	82.50	50.50	79.50	2.50 +
Blow Plast	68.75	34.50	68.75	11.75 +
Bombay Dyeing	232.00	173.00	218.50	6.00 +
Britannia Ind.	119.00	97.00	114.50	2.50 –
Brooke Bond	123.00	91.00	113.00	3.00 –
Cadbury India	172.50	133.75	148.75	11.25 –
Century Textiles	3580.00	2420.00	3525.00	215.00 +
Colgate Palmolive	233.75	176.25	220.00	5.00 +
Cyanamid	123.75	87.50	107.50	12.50 –
DCM	60.00	45.50	51.75	2.50 –
Dunlop	75.50	51.75	60.50	0.50 –
E.I. Hotels	65.25	56.00	58.50	0.50 +
Escorts	95.50	77.75	95.12	6.62 +
Finolex Cables	282.50	200.00	232.50	20.00 +
Garware Nylon	69.00	49.00	53.50	4.50 –
G.E. Shipping	54.75	44.00	46.25	0.50 –
G.S.F.C.	218.75	165.00	202.50	13.75 +
Grasim Ind.	134.50	106.00	123.00	7.00 –
Hind. Aluminium	303.75	205.00	277.50	2.50 +
Hind. Ciba	1660.00	960.00	1390.00	20.00 +
Hoechst	2300.00	1295.00	1970.00	150.00 –
Hindustan Lever	125.00	101.00	119.50	3.00 +
Hindustan Motors	37.20	19.80	32.60	0.10 +
ICI India Ltd.	49.50	35.25	37.00	0.50 –
Indian Organic	62.50	46.50	59.00	1.25 –
Indian Rayon	113.50	84.00	107.50	0.50 –
Indrol	247.50	161.25	223.75	11.25 –
Ingersoll-Rand	245.00	190.00	220.00	nil
ITC	75.50	48.75	74.00	0.50 –
J.K. Synthetics	67.00	50.00	57.50	1.50 –
Kinetic Engineering	165.00	130.00	163.75	15.75 +
Kirloskar Cummins	90.00	65.00	80.00	nil
KSB Pumps	227.50	185.00	200.00	15.00 +
Larsen & Toubro	122.00	57.00	71.50	5.50 –
Lipton	112.00	83.00	85.00	3.50* –
LML Ltd.	21.50	15.00	19.50	1.00 +
Madura Coats	120.00	110.50	118.00	nil
M&M	103.00	67.50	87.50	1.25 +
Milk Food	280.00	115.00	135.00	35.00 –
Motor Industries	1200.00	785.00	850.00	10.00* +
Mukand Ltd.	157.00	127.00	143.00	8.00 +
National Organic	1660.00	1070.00	1320.00	20.00 –
Nestle India	129.00	101.75	118.75	0.25 –
Nirlon	22.00	13.00	14.50	1.50 +
Orkay Silk Mills	20.50	14.50	16.50	0.50 +
Peico Electronics	34.50	24.00	32.75	2.50 +
Pfizer	113.75	72.50	90.00	2.50 +
Premier Auto	74.50	53.50	58.00	3.00 –
Raymond	98.00	70.00	87.00	1.00 +
Reckitt & Colman	244.00	178.00	211.00	2.00 +
Reliance Industries	90.00	50.00	64.00	0.50 +
Siemens India	123.50	96.00	115.00	1.00 +
Shaw Wallace	96.00	65.00	90.00	1.00 –
Shriram Fibres	71.00	49.25	49.25	4.75 –
SKF Bearings	1570.00	1240.00	1495.00	35.00 +
SPIC	64.00	50.75	61.75	1.50 +
Tata Steel	136.50	103.25	118.25	3.25 +
Telco	154.50	110.00	147.00	5.00 +
Vam Organic	167.50	132.50	136.25	2.50 –
Videocon Int.	285.00	105.00	247.50	nil
Voltas	87.50	63.00	76.00	6.00 +
Wimco	32.50	15.75	18.75	0.75 +

*Ex-dividend

WORLD VALUE OF RUPEE

			TT Selling Rates Rs	TT Buying Rates Rs
Australia	Dollar	1	13.5382	13.3884
Austria	Shilling	100	147.2559	146.0184
Bahrain	Dinar	1	46.8247	46.7268
Bangladesh	Taka	100	55.7437	54.3006
Canada	Dollar	1	14.9708	14.8084
Denmark	Kroner	1	2.7347	2.7040
Egypt	Pound	1	6.8059	6.6832
France	Franc	1	3.1348	3.0581
Hong Kong	Dollar	1	2.2565	2.2327
Indonesia	Rupiah	100	0.9611	0.9459
Iran	Rial	100	25.5368	25.2559
Italy	Lira	100	1.4172	1.4002
Japan	Yen	100	11.6686	11.3766
Kenya	Shilling	1	0.8129	0.8037
Kuwait	Dinar	1	59.9292	57.9206
Malaysia	Dollar	1	6.4842	6.4142
Mauritius	Rupee	1	1.1945	1.1780
Nepal	Rupee	1	0.6129	0.6044
Netherlands	Guilder	1	9.2563	9.1550
Pakistan	Rupee	1	0.8283	0.8158
Singapore	Dollar	1	9.5079	9.4037
Spain	Peseta	1	0.1688	0.1664
Sri Lanka	Rupee	1	0.4395	0.4344
Sweden	Kroner	1	2.8847	2.8523
Switzerland	Franc	1	12.3007	12.1639
Tanzania	Shilling	1	0.0976	0.0939
Thailand	Baht	100	68.5909	67.0898
UK	Pound	1	29.5159	29.3040
USA	Dollar	1	17.5593	17.3762
UAE	Dirham	1	4.7832	4.7295
USSR	Rouble	1	28.2986	27.9810
W. Germany	Deutschmark	1	10.6383	10.3734

These rates were supplied by The Bank of Tokyo Limited, New Delhi and quoted between the banks on 4.6.90.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The safest parking space before your car reaches you

Lufthansa

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

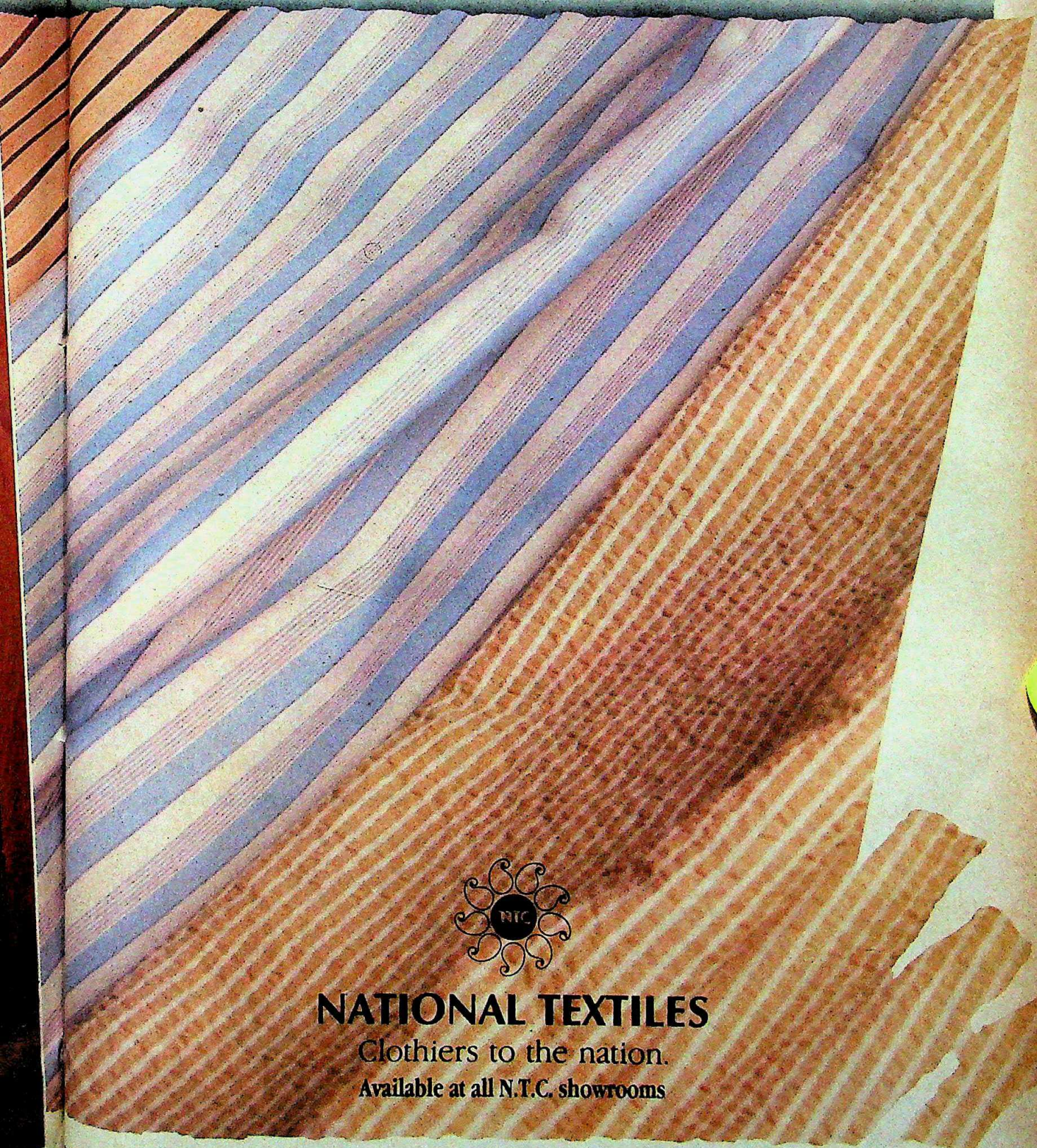
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

F.S. Advertising/NTC/493

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

GREAT FABRICS GREAT PRICES

S H I R T I N G S



NTC

NATIONAL TEXTILES

Clothiers to the nation.

Available at all N.T.C. showrooms

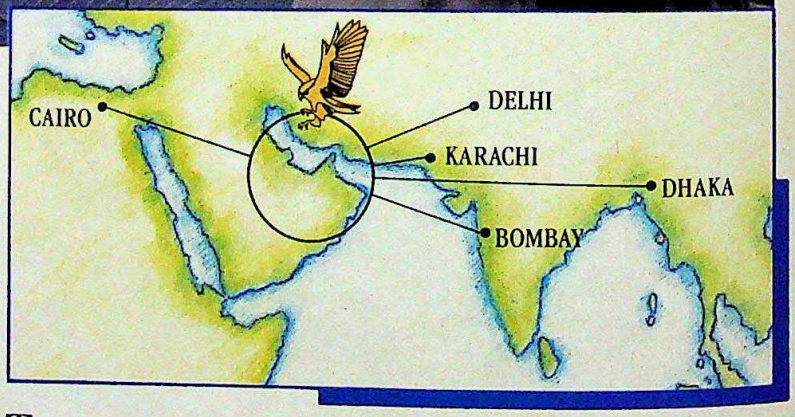
DRESS MATERIALS / SUITINGS / SAREES / FURNISHINGS / TOWELS / BEDSHEETS / INDUSTRIAL FABRICS / NON-WOVEN FABRICS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ABUDHABI · AL-FUJAIRAH · AMMAN · ATHENS · BAGHDAD · BAHRAIN · BANGKOK · BOMBAY · CAIRO · COLOMBO · DAMASCUS · DAR ES SALAAM · DELHI · DHAHRAN · DHAKA · DOHA · DUBAI · FRANKFURT · HONG KONG · ISTANBUL · JEDDAH · KARACHI · KHARTOUM · LARNACA · KUWAIT

GULF AIR. THE VITAL LINK IN ANY BUSINESS PLAN.



This year business travellers to the Gulf will have the option to enjoy the world-famous Gulf Air Business Class luxury service which is already available on our European routes.

And if you've got a busy schedule, it will help to know that Gulf Air has one too: the more flights we offer, the more you're able to choose the one that suits you and, of course, your business.

طيران الخليج
GULF AIR
GOLDEN FALCON SERVICE

A TRULY CIVILISED WAY TO FLY.

SHIRAZ · SHARJAH · SANAA · SALALAH · RIYADH · RAS AL KHAIMAH · PARIS · NAIROBI · MUSCAT · MANILA · LONDON

daCunha GA 3 90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

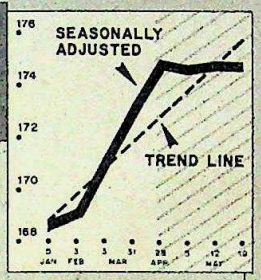
Unless industry is given a major boost there are strong possibilities of a recession taking place. This is perhaps the single most disturbing internal problem facing the Indian economy today. Inflation seems to be under check but a poor monsoon could, of course, change all that. Money supply is right now under tight control—which is good as far as checking inflationary tendencies is concerned but not so good for industrial growth.

All data are seasonally adjusted. Current trends are computed on the basis of six months' (weekly data) or one-and-a-half years' (monthly data) figures.

Wholesale Price Index

1981-82 = 100

Current Trend
10.9% p.a.

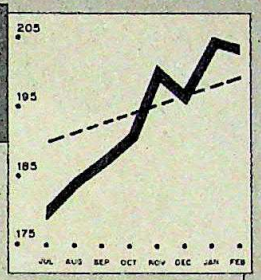


Wholesale prices remained stable over the last fortnight which is an indication of the fact that inflation now might be under control.

Industrial Production Index

1980-81 = 100

Current Trend
8.4% p.a.

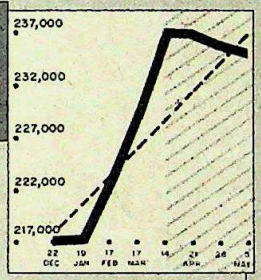


Industrial production was alarmingly stagnant last month. And slow economic growth is becoming a serious problem.

Money Supply

Rs Crore

Current Trend
22.8% p.a.



Money supply actually contracted last fortnight. The signs are ominous as it may exacerbate industrial stagnation.

Commercial Bank Credit

Rs Crore

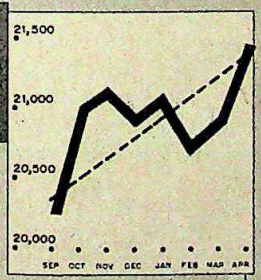
Current Trend
23.3% p.a.

Commercial credit grew last fortnight. This is a welcome sign and should continue at this rate if industry is to get a boost.

Electricity Generation

Million kWh

Current Trend
8.5% p.a.

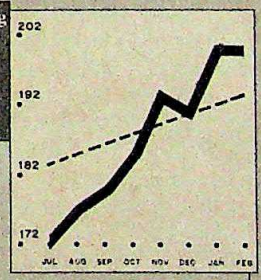


A marginal increase in electricity generation last month was indeed a good sign, coming as it did after months of no improvement.

Manufacturing Index

1980-81 = 100

Current Trend
9% p.a.

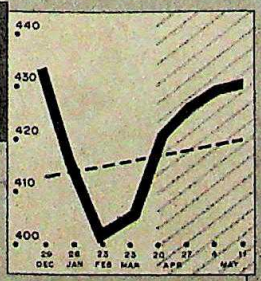


The worst news on the industrial front is that the manufacturing sector is the cause of the crippling stagnation.

Share Price Index

1984-85 = 100

Current Trend
4.5% p.a.

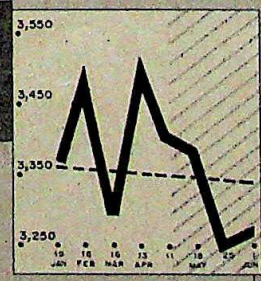


Share prices showed some buoyancy. But there is no reason for euphoria as on the whole, the market remains uncertain.

Closing Gold Prices

Rs per 10 gm

Current Trend
1.5% p.a.



Gold prices continue to stagnate—an indication that smuggling continues. New measures haven't had desired results.

WHOLESALE PRICES

Growth of items in the 1st fortnight of May 1990

	% Growth
Betel-Nuts	10.15
Wheat	8.37
Tobacco Raw	7.74
Onions	7.61
Tea	5.67
Jute Textiles	4.74
Barley	2.91
Logs Timber Bamboo	2.87
Cement	2.26
Pete Crude & Natural Gas	2.26
Vanaspati	1.88
Furnace Oil	1.59
Coconut Oil	1.57
Nylon/terene and Mixedcloth	1.53
Dry cells	1.40
Machine Tools	1.33
Electricity	1.27
Soda Ash	1.25
Rails	1.23
Diesel Oil	1.20
Bars & Rods	1.15
Aviation Spirit	1.09
Pig Iron	1.08
Semis Billets	1.06
Petrol	1.03
Tin Containers	1.01
Mining Machinery	0.98
Lubricating Oil	0.97
Skelp	0.96
Gram	0.95
Steel Structurals	0.94
Plates & Sheets	0.88
Coal	0.86
Camel Back	0.77
Aluminium	0.77
Dairy Products	0.74
Paper	0.72
Woollen Cloth & Woollen Khadi	0.70
Kerosene	0.68
Tubes	0.68
Ceramic Tiles	0.68
Sewing Machine	0.65
Butter	0.61
Tyres	0.55
Bulk Drugs	0.55
Tobacco & Other Tobacco Products	0.55
Nitrogenous Fertilizers	0.54

Of the 139 series considered, 73 of them with a total weight of 38.633 had a positive growth and 61 of them with a total weight of 46.219 had a negative growth.

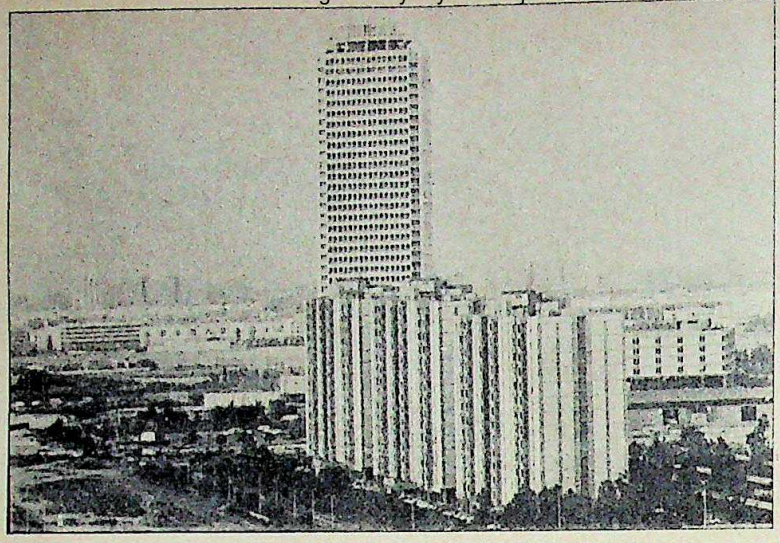
SELECTED INDICATORS

	1990	1989
Petroleum		
Thousand Tonnes, April	2934	2780
Petroleum Refinery Products		
Thousand Tonnes, April	4097	3920
Letter of Intents		
Numbers, April	364	409
Industrial Licences		
Numbers, April	129	143
Revenue Earning Goods Traffic		
Million Tonnes April	17833	16623

Compiled by THE POLICY GROUP

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Dubai World Trade Centre

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Lure of the Lucre

Dubai is the new El Dorado for Indian professionals

A graduate from the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) at Ahmedabad, K.P. Ravi had always thought a job in the Gulf was infra dig. "I used to associate the Gulf with carpenters," he recalls. Then two years ago, he was offered a job in an electronics firm in Dubai. Tempted by the salary, he accepted. Today, Ravi is senior manager at Jumbo Electronics, and his savings potential has jumped sixfold, from Rs 50,000 a year in India. Not for a moment has he regretted his decision to move to Dubai.

Like Ravi, an increasing number of Indian professionals are moving to the United Arab Emirates (UAE)—and liking it. Five years ago, if you threw a stone at a group of Indians in the UAE, chances were you'd hit a carpenter or a mason. Today, it's more likely you'll hit a tie-clad yuppie, an accountant or a banker. The numbers tell the story of the change. In 1988, of the 2.2 lakh Indians in Dubai, as many as 72,600 were in white-collar jobs and 6,600 were top professionals while 92,000 held blue-collar jobs. In contrast, in 1985, the number of white-collar jobs was less than 45,000. Agrees J.N. Mahajan, Indian consul-general in Dubai: "Previously unskilled people used to come. Now more and more professionals are moving here."

Suddenly, the ripple has turned into a wave as professionals in India add a Gulf job to their list of career options. Last year, the Middle East Bank advertised 12 positions in Indian newspapers. It was flooded with over a hundred applicants, among them IIM graduates working for prestigious organisations like Citibank and ANZ Grindlays. Dubai is no longer downmarket. Says R. Sasankan, who works for the car division of a major Dubai agency: "I used to have a low opinion of Indians who went to the Gulf. But this region offers its own kicks."

Why the sudden rush to the UAE? The principal reason is money. An MBA who earns Rs 8,000 a month at a foreign bank in India can earn between Rs 40,000 and Rs 60,000 tax-free in the UAE. A chartered accountant can earn up to Rs 25,000 a month—and save close to a third of it. Often, the employer pays the rent and even provides transport to and from work.

For several years, business in the Gulf stagnated thanks to the war between Iran and Iraq. Now the end of the war and Dubai's re-emergence as a business and finance centre has meant a growing demand for professionals. Says Rajiv Sud, manager, finance and administration, at Boodai Trading: "With the infrastructure for business now ready, the need for the blue-collar worker is not as pronounced as earlier. The white-collar boom had to happen."

Many people complain, however, that a Gulf job doesn't offer professional satisfaction. Says an accountant: "The work is easier; there aren't too many statutes to follow, but it makes the work less challenging." Another banker adds: "Here there is a professional vacuum; you come here only to make lots of money."

One consequence is that top professionals are still reluctant to take up a job in Dubai. Anita Ramachandran, a manager in the Bombay-based management consultant firm, A.F. Ferguson Associates, says: "We have had problems filling up some vacancies because the right candidates don't like the job." And in Dubai, Anil Bharadwaj, group financial controller

"The main difference is: in India I had an Ambassador with a driver, here I drive a Saab."

JAGANATH DESIKAN
Senior Manager
Emirates Bank International

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Art of Airconditioning.

It's the finesse that comes from the most delicate use of power.

Presenting USHA. The quieter, cooler, energy efficient airconditioner.

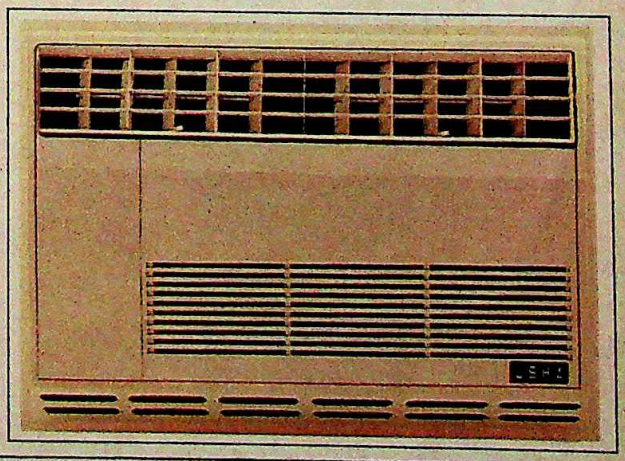
Airconditioners have been known to have an insatiable appetite for power. Till now.

Today, the USHA is probably the only airconditioner that can give you quicker, quieter and better cooling, while actually consuming less power.

Strange, perhaps, but true.

The secret is a superior system design. Backed by over 25 successful years in refrigeration and airconditioning.

Blend the two, and you'll come up with a delightful sensation. Call it the art of airconditioning.



USHA AIRCONDITIONERS

Also available on DGS & D Rate Contract.

Shriram Refrigeration Industries Ltd. Regional Sales Offices : New Delhi 80, Furniture Block, Kirti Nagar Tel : 5415371, 5431995; Bombay Brown Boveri House, (3rd Floor), 264 / 265 Dr. Annie Besant Road, Prabhadevi. Tel : 4370982, 4370983, 4379476; Calcutta 10, Middleton Row Tel. 297800, 297633; Madras, Plot No. 1958-C, 2nd Avenue (Opp. Anna Nagar Main Post Office), Anna Nagar. Tel : 619383, 619360 Lucknow Tel. 79004; Jalandhar Tel. 4520, 4183; Faridabad Tel. 539692; Jabalpur Tel. 23455; Jaipur Tel 62872 Ahmedabad Tel. 462005, 408779; Pune Tel 423246 Bhubaneswar Tel. 407698 Patna Tel. 231035; Bangalore Tel. 643845; Secunderabad Tel. 847468, 847256.

everest / SH / 17

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

1989

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

DCM
1990

990

DCM ORCHESTRATES THE TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE.

Strident notes fade into the past.
Dissonance gives way to corporate harmony.
Indeed, the perfect note is struck.
DCM leads the high growth areas
of frontier technologies.
Electronics. Computers. Automobiles.
Engineering. Synthetic Fibres.
Exquisite compositions on an
exceptionally strong base.
Futuristic vision with managerial support.
Cumulative R&D strengths.
Success and proven performances :
DCM Toyota. DCM Engineering.
SRF.
The sound addition of a
sophisticated new complex for
DCM Data Products.
In concert, new centres for the design of
Applications Specific Integrated Circuits (ASICs).
All this richness provided by
the new generation resources of Real Estate.
Yesterday. Today. Tomorrow.
Stay tuned.
The DCM Rhapsody has begun.

THE DCM GROUP

DCM LIMITED, KANCHENJUNGA, 18, BARAKHAMBA ROAD, NEW DELHI-110 001.

IN PERFECT SHAPE FOR THE FUTURE.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

MILESTONES/DCM/443a

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Nulab is the interface. Between the international manufacturers of essential analytical tools and customers in India.

Beginning as a supplier of Spectroscopic products, Nulab has quickly expanded to get into the forefront of Analytical Instrumentation Systems, Chromatography, Weighing Technology, Thermal Systems and Titrimentry.

The best and the brightest in instrumentation from all over the world is represented in India by Nulab. They include: Spectra-Physics, Bio-Rad-Digilab Division, GBC, Carlo Erba, Labtam and Mettler.

A 200 strong team, comprising pre-sale applications chemists, sales engineers and after-sales service personnel makes every effort to ensure scientists and professionals have the cutting edge.

An assurance of a ready stock of vital spare parts ensures customers don't lose time.

Nulab brings the world of instrumentation to your doorstep. And covers every single need your laboratory might have.

NULAB
Equipment Co. Pvt. Ltd.

Labhouse, Plot No. F-13, Marol MIDC,
Opp. SEEPZ, Andheri (E), Bombay-400 093.
Tel: 6366506/6321420.
Fax: 009122, 6361002.
Gram: MENTSLAB. Telex: 011-79123 LAB IN

- Delhi (Tel: 5735975/5754518)
- Madras (Tel: 456962)
- Calcutta (Tel: 273385)
- Hyderabad (Tel: 833435/834473)
- Bangalore (Tel: 265421)

Nobody Covers Your Instrumentation Needs Like Nulab Does.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

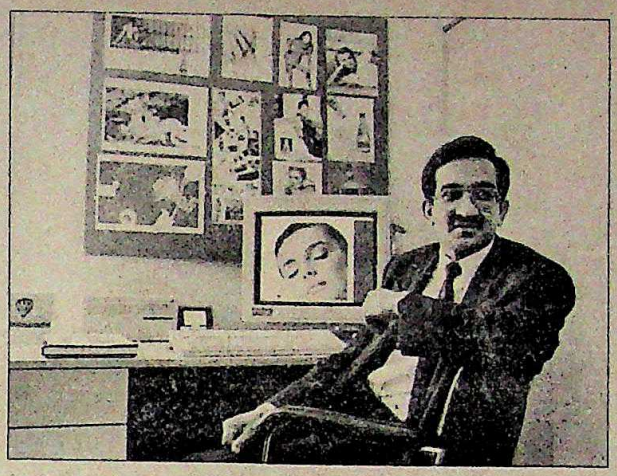
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

of Arenco, a large real estate firm, says: "We hire people at the beginning of their career, when career growth is not yet important to them."

In some areas, however, professional satisfaction is achievable. Says Ranjan Mukhopadhyay, chief accountant of the Varkey group who came to Dubai 15 months ago: "The exposure to a truly open economy is fantastic. You can deal in foreign exchange up to any amount."

Another professional who feels there hasn't been a decline in the quality of his work is Jaganath Desikan, senior manager, Emirates Bank International. "The skills required are different," he says, "Here I have to prepare strategies for product packages in a more competitive market." But Desikan too admits that cash was a major motivating factor for his move to the Gulf. His savings potential has jumped six times, from Rs 100,000 a year in India. Nevertheless, Desikan intends to return home after five years, even at the risk of losing a swanky apartment at the Dubai Intercontinental Hotel.

Competence is another reason why companies prefer Indians. Take, for instance, Ravi Rao, who has turned around Pan-Gulf Publicity, a local advertising agency. While local agencies opted to do crude cut-and-paste jobs, Rao invested in hi-tech: a computer system that allows his artists to run riot with their imagination, a colour scanner that can display 16.7 million colours, a colour printer that can crank out transparencies in 30 seconds, and two workstations using software worth Rs 8.5 lakh. The investment has paid off: last year Pan-Gulf raked in Rs 12 crore.



"We have much better equipment in Dubai, better than what the biggest Indian agency has."

RAVI RAO
Vice President, Pan-Gulf Publicity

ANOTHER success story is that of Vishesh Bhatia, a London-trained chartered accountant who's been in Dubai for over a decade. Recalls Bhatia: "My family thought I was mad when they heard I was coming to Dubai. They said Dubai is a lousy place. But I took my chance and have no regrets at all." Bhatia joined as a project accountant fixing glitches for a firm that represents Toyota, Honda, Volvo, Chrysler, National, Sanyo, Toshiba and a host of other companies. Today, he controls a major division and lives at a villa in the upscale, beach-fronted Jhumeira.

With opportunity—and money—abundantly available in Dubai, the rush of professionals is not surprising. Also, the quality of life isn't any worse than in India. Many, in fact, find it better. True, in recreational activities, Dubai has little to offer; the only entertainment is the video or the television which is full of British and American reruns. But the supermarkets are packed with goodies and you can get lost for days in the shopping malls. Says Bharadwaj: "Only those who haven't seen this area feel it's backward. The only boring thing is that you run into the same people all the time because it is a small place."

For many professionals, that is exactly what makes the Gulf a better place to live in than the West: it combines the advantages of the West with the ambience of the subcontinent. Unlike in England, you don't have to worry about skinheads. Unlike in the US, you don't have to cover yourself up in layers of woollens during harsh, long winters. And unlike in Europe, you don't have to struggle with local languages. The lingua franca is a bastardised child of Hindi and Urdu, which even locals speak. Says Rao: "It felt like home from day one." Equally important, home is less than two-and-a-half hours away as the jet flies. Says an Indian woman: "In Dubai you don't have to adapt. You don't have to worry about your accent."

That indeed seems to be an advantage. Desikan is more to the point: "The difference is: in India I had an Ambassador with a driver, here I drive a Saab." And feel like a Bada Saab.

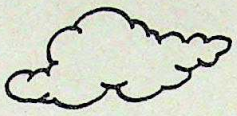
—SALIL TRIPATHI in Dubai

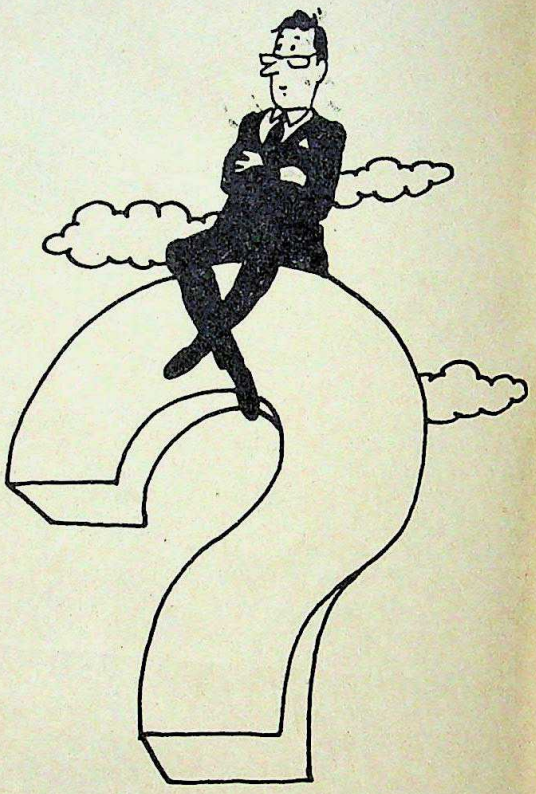
"My family said Dubai is a lousy place. But I took my chance and now have no regrets at all."

VISHESH BHATIA
Managing Director, Al-Futtaim Engineering

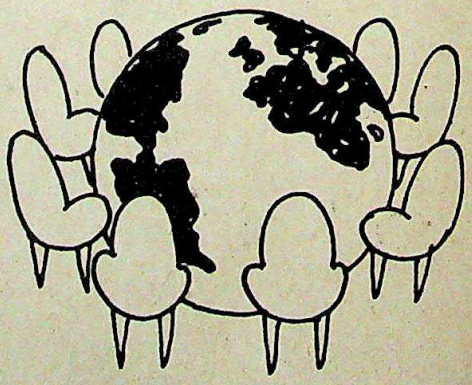
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri





ALL YOU WANTED TO KNOW ABOUT HOSTING AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

BUT DIDN'T KNOW WHO IN THE WORLD TO ASK.

You've heard about the 33,000 world conferences that've been generating over $ 104 billion per year.

You've also come to know that India's share is only minuscule (170 conferences).

By now you are also aware that as many as 20,000 international associations, besides the U.N., provide the ever increasing impetus to this 'convention culture'. With business prospects exploding into unimaginable dimensions.

You've made up your mind to be an Ambassador for India at the next international meet.

Congratulations!

Now, here's all that you need to know – India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICPB).

India Convention Promotion Bureau (ICBP) – Counsellor, Guide and Friend.

We know conference and convention management inside out. It's our vocation.

We'll show you how to invite.

We'll prepare your professional bid document. Our member organisations will be with you in the post-bid phase: promotions, bookings, management of the event – everything.

Any and every support you need, you merely have to ask and it will be there.

India! All set to host the world.

To make India the world's most favourite 'conference destination' there's so much more happening.

You'll find more convention centres emerging in the scenic, beautiful environs of India.

Agra, Goa, Bangalore, Kovalam, to name a few are already gearing up for the world's conference rush.

The existing facilities in Delhi, Srinagar and other metros are being increased. Specialised state-of-the-art facilities tuned for conference needs are being incorporated.

ICPB – We've got what it takes to make your conference happen.

To make you compete with the world. To provide all the resources you need to make a bid and win.

That's the role of ICPB.

We're a non-profit association sponsored by the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, for providing conference expertise to National Associations/Institutions/ Organisations.

In this vital endeavour we have the support and the resources of our member bodies comprising Hotels, Airlines, Travel Agents, Tour Operators, Tourist Bureaus, Travel Associations, etc.

Any more questions on how we'll help you host the next international conference?

Get in touch today.

And win the world for India.

For further details write to or contact:

INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU
Room 223 A, Ashok Hotel,
New Delhi-110 021.
Phones: 6874318, 6873612, 600121 (Extn. 2687)
Tlx: 031-65647 ASOK IN, 031-65207 ASOK IN
Fax: 687-3216.

ICPB
INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU

Sponsored by:

Ministry of Tourism
Government of India

ICCA MEMBER

INDIA CONVENTION PROMOTION BUREAU
All you need to bring world minds together.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

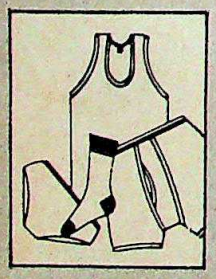
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

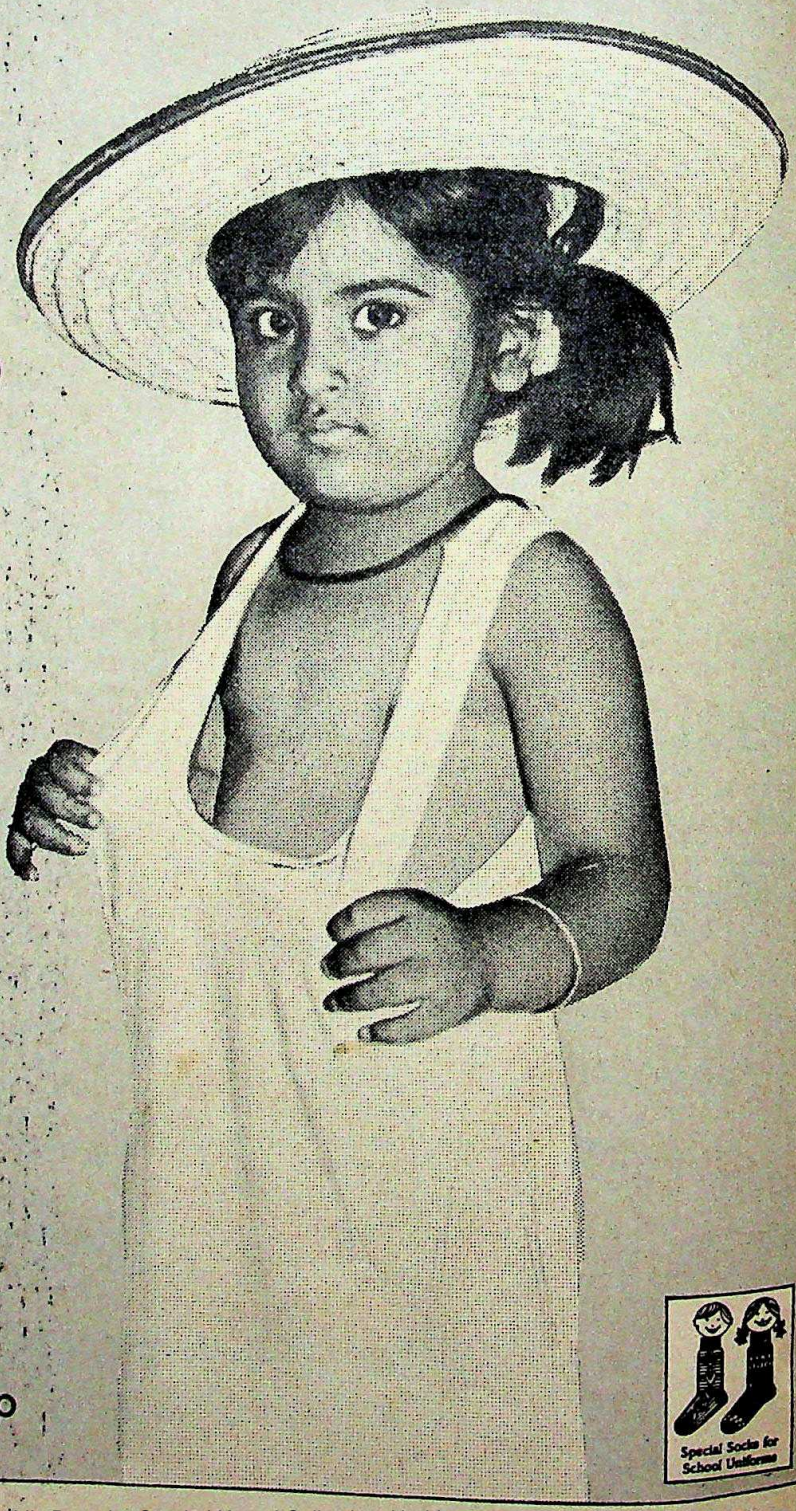
'Papa hain baniyanon se pareshan,
Main layee hun unke liye H-Lon baniyan'

H-Lon Underwear-Banians are made from 100% pure cotton. So these are soft, comfortable and do not shrink or expand.

H-Lon®

- Underwear
- Banian
- Panties
- Socks





Rashtriya

H. LON GROUP
H-Lon House, C-4/1 Main Road,
Wazirpur Ind. Area, Delhi-110 052.

Dealership/Distributorship enquiries solicited.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Kashmir Question

WHAT is the present 'status' of Kashmir as a bilateral issue between India and Pakistan? India says that any talks on the subject should be on the basis of the Simla Accord of 1972. Pakistan counters that the basis should be "the UN resolutions of the 1948-57 period" which envisaged a plebiscite in the state.

There are two separate sets of these resolutions. On April 21, 1948, the Security Council passed a resolution recommending detailed steps for a plebiscite and directing a commission to carry them out. Pakistan rejected this resolution in its letter of April 30, 1948. (So much for its talk of the sanctity of UN resolutions). India did likewise. However, both agreed to talk to the UN Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP).

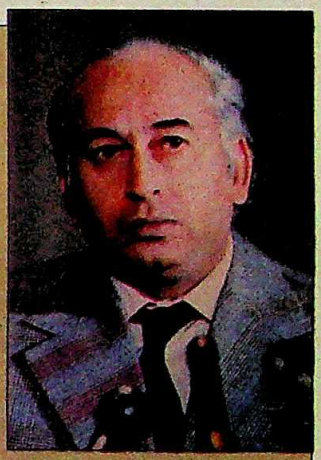
This body produced the second set of "UN resolutions" which both countries accepted. One dated August 13, 1948, envisaged three stages for a solution—cease-fire; a truce agreement on troop withdrawals; and a plebiscite. Another, of January 5, 1949, spelt out the procedure for a plebiscite. They were, in effect, an agreement to negotiate a detailed accord. But neither the UNCIP nor successive UN mediators could bring that about. The main hurdle was the ratio of the troops of both sides in Kashmir. The last serious effort to overcome it was made in Frank Graham's proposals of February 14, 1953. Both sides rejected them.

Later in the year, Nehru and Mohammed Ali Bogra met and agreed on a region-wise plebiscite. Their joint communique made no reference to the UNCIP's resolutions. Unfortunately, while the negotiations were on, came news of a military aid pact between the US and Pakistan. The accord collapsed and the last opportunity of a solution based on plebiscite vanished.

The Security Council was activated. Its President, Gunnar Jarring, came over in 1957 followed by Frank Graham the next year. Both acknowledged in their reports that the UNCIP's two resolutions were getting obsolete.

Under Ayub Khan, Pakistan changed its stand and offered to discuss alternatives to plebiscite provided India suggested them. At the 1963 Swaran Singh-Bhutto talks, India offered about 1,500 square miles more to Pakistan. Bhutto demanded all of Kashmir except 3,000 square miles.

Pakistan decided to settle the issue through war and failed. The Security Council's resolution of September 20, 1965, imposing cease-fire made no reference to the plebiscite resolutions and asked the two states to negotiate directly. This was the last Security Council resolution on Kashmir.



The Simla Accord is based on ground realities which have survived two wars. Once these are honestly accepted, the two sides can resolve the other problems created by an arbitrary line of control.

The Tashkent declaration signed by Shastri and Ayub in January 1966, with Kosygin as "witness", recorded that Kashmir "was discussed and each of the sides put forth its respective position". No negotiations on Kashmir were held thereafter.

After the 1971 war, India pressed for a settlement of the Kashmir question but Bhutto pleaded for time. Indira Gandhi relented and signed the Simla Accord on July 2, 1972, which pledged both sides to respect "the line of control" in Kashmir "without prejudice to the recognised position of either". Differences were to be resolved "by peaceful means through bilateral negotiation" and representatives were to meet to discuss how to establish durable peace including "a final settlement of Jammu and Kashmir."

Against this record, negotiations on the basis of the UNCIP's resolutions are impossible. Inherently unworkable after four decades, they were ignored in bilateral talks in 1953, 1963, and 1972. Abandoned by Pakistan in the '60s and by the Security Council in 1965, their growing obsolescence was noted by UN mediators themselves in 1957-58. Finally, a nation which failed to seize Kashmir at its chosen forum—the battle field—in 1965, cannot expect to secure it now at the conference table or by plebiscite.

Negotiations on the basis of the Simla Accord inescapably imply acceptance of the status quo. Realising this, in 1986, Zia launched an operation to alter it through infiltration of trained terrorists, as the JKLF's Amanullah Khan and others have revealed. The cry for negotiations went up in Pakistan only after this operation had made some headway. As Foreign Minister Yaqub Khan admitted in the National Assembly on June 3, 1986, neither country had proposed discussion of Kashmir in pursuance of the Simla Accord.

Clearly Pakistan seeks to bury the accord by invoking "the UN resolutions". The Simla Accord is based on realities on the ground which survived two wars since the cease-fire on New Year's Day 1949. Once these are honestly accepted, India and Pakistan can resolve the humanitarian and other problems created by a line of control drawn arbitrarily in the wake of armed conflict.

That defines the limits of Kashmir as an Indo-Pak issue. The rest is a matter between the Indian Union and the people of the state.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MADHYA PRADESH

Waiting for Water

The state is a parched land despite massive efforts by the Government to augment supplies.

EVERY night a slow-moving train with 50 bogies chugs out of the Indore railway station for Dewas, 40 km away. At the other end, people with parched throats wait anxiously and impatiently for the precious cargo that it carries—water.

The 'water special', as the train has come to be known, transports 11.35 lakh litres of water daily to the growing industrial township (population 1.20 lakh), currently facing the worst-ever water shortage. Any breakdown in the supply would definitely spell a disaster for the parched town.

With Kshipra river, the source of the town's water supply, drying up and the water table of almost all the tubewells, handpumps and wells in the city touching rock bottom, the water special has become the town's life-line. "The situation has become so grim that people had started packing up to leave the town and we half-expected a water riot to break out any moment," says S.S. Raghuvanshi, the chief engineer of the Public Health Engineering Department (PHED).

Dewas is not the only town in landlocked Madhya Pradesh facing the ordeal. The state is reeling under an unprecedented water famine this summer. Failure of monsoon over the past four years and less than normal rainfall in 40 of the 45 districts last year have led to a situation in which man and beast are literally scrounging around for water. In Itarsi, Narendra Singh Chouhan, 23, committed suicide on June 1 to protest against the Government's failure to provide water and Rajendra Singh jumped from the town's supply tank—he was saved—after his fast unto death failed to evoke any response. Says G.K. Khandelwal, a chartered accountant of Dewas: "To fetch a bucket of water has become the focal point of my life."

Every sixth village in the state suffers from water scarcity. In 12,000 villages people have to walk miles in search of a pot of drinking water. In 351 of the 398 towns of Madhya Pradesh water is rationed. There are at least half a dozen towns in the state which are supplied drinking water on alternate days. Says Minister of State for PHED, Dhyanendra Singh: "Every day I pray to God for a good and early monsoon."

But the prayers don't appear to have been heard yet. Apart from carrying water to towns, the Government is transporting water through tankers and bullock-carts to 508 villages at present. As the mercury goes up, by the middle of June, the number of such waterless villages is expected to swell to 1,200.

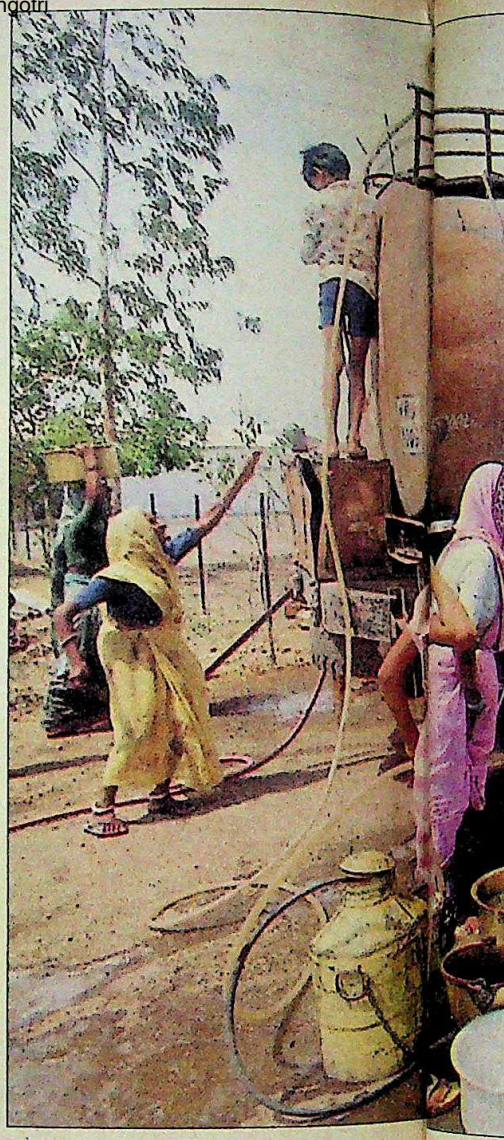
And predictably profiteers and black marketeers have flooded places where water does not flow. The going price: Rs 20 per drum of water. Peer Karadia village for instance, on the highway between Dewas and Indore, boasts of several such water sellers who have made money overnight. Says Ramesh Patel, who drilled two tubewells in his field this summer: "Selling water is more profitable than irrigating fields."

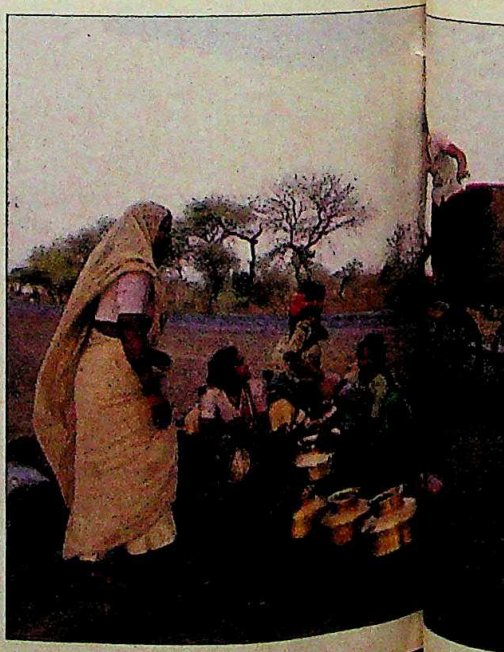
So pathetic is the situation that even in Bhopal's Hamidia Hospital surgery could not be performed on several occasions due to paucity of water. Last month two patients admitted to the emergency ward due to suspected poisoning could be treated only after the doctors arranged for water from outside. The hospital administration, however, claims that it has enough water.

Industries suffer too. Several small units in the bustling industrial estate of Dewas have closed as they cannot afford to buy water at exorbitant prices (Rs 300 per tanker) from surrounding villages. Says a spokesman of the Dewas-based Prestige Group: "We have to spend a minor fortune to keep the wheels running."

Yet another fall-out of the drought is the distress sale of cattle. Gowali Palasia near Mhow in Indore district which had 22 *mawa* (milk products) shops in the villages has only one shop now. "I sold my cattle because there is no water," says a village milkman, Shaligram.

The surprising part is that the farmers reaped near normal kharif crop and



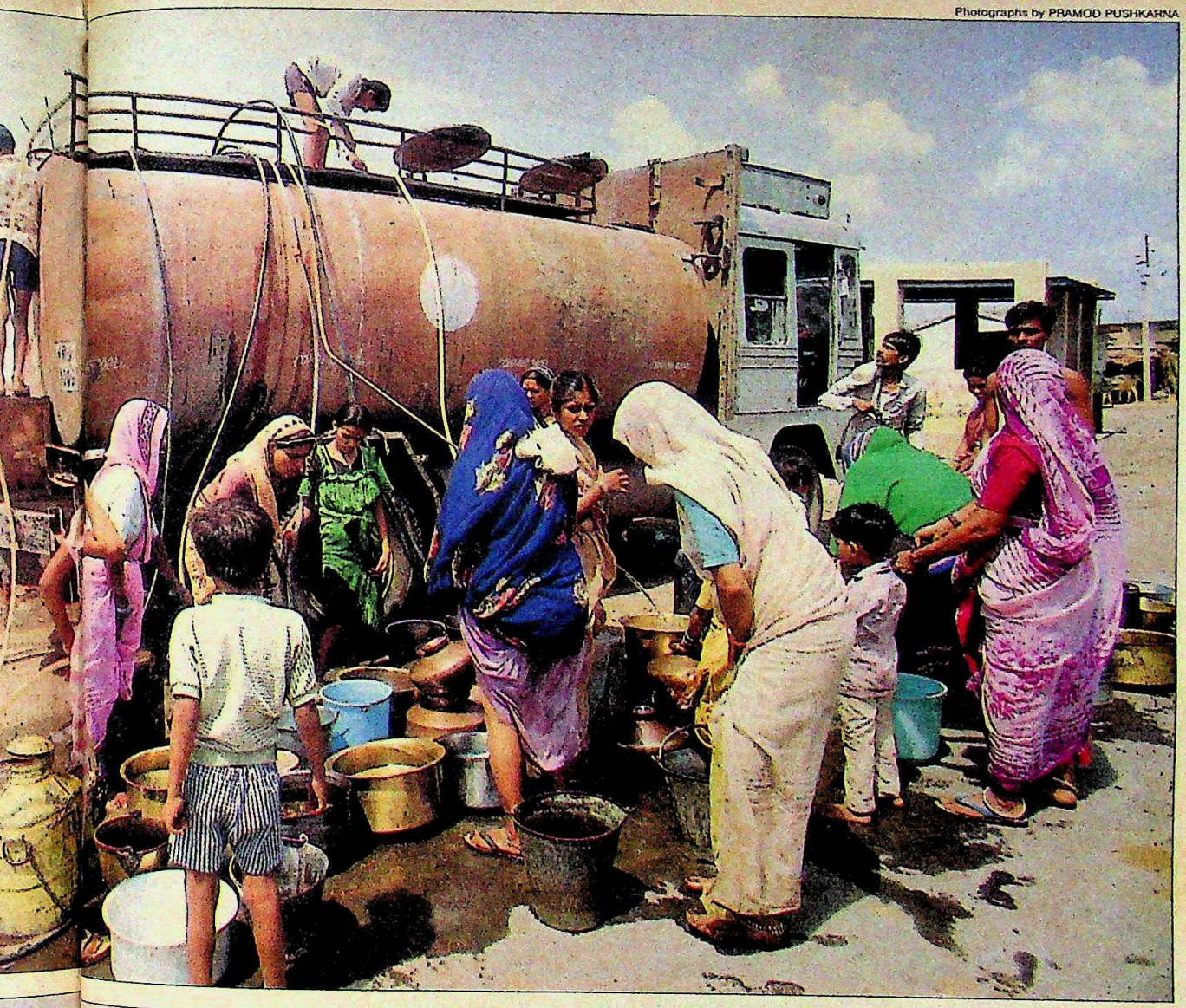


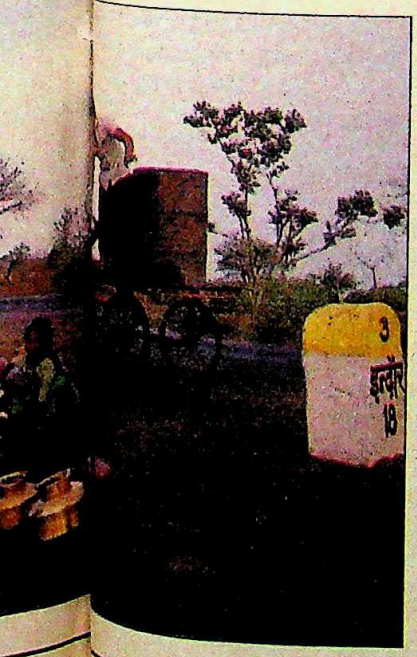
■ **(Clockwise from right) water trickles from a hose; queue near a tanker and waiting at a tap: endless ordeal**

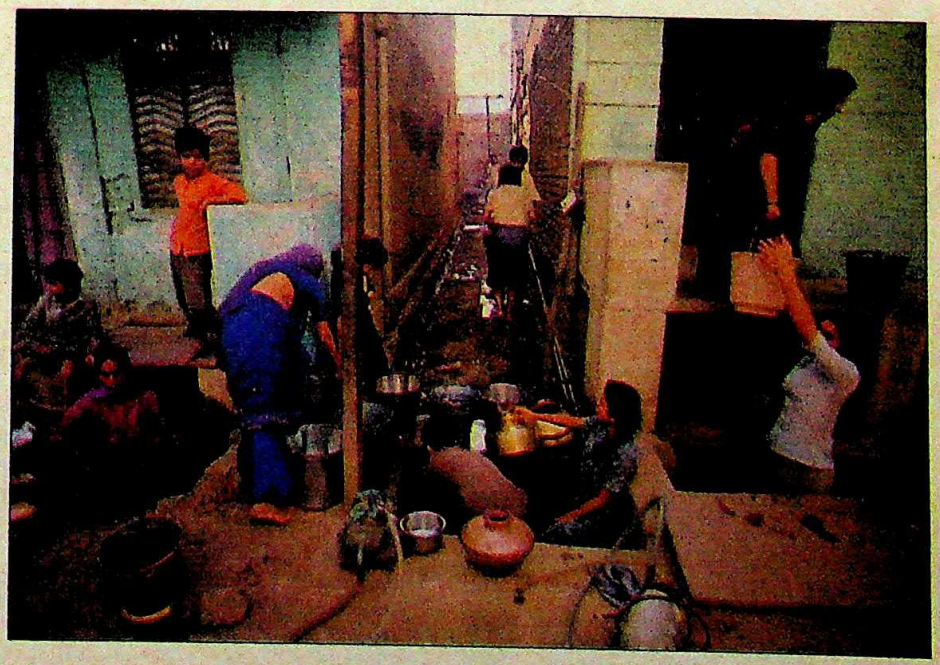
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by PRAMOD PUSHKARNA

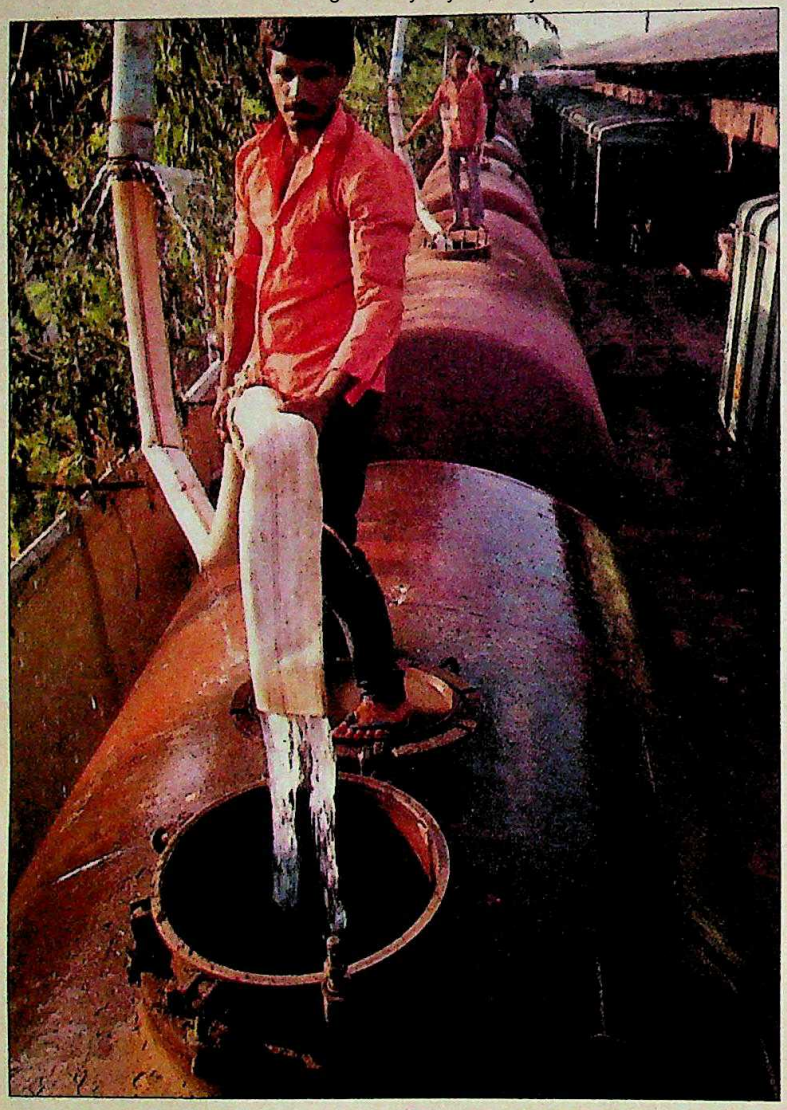






CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Filling water tanks on a train at Indore: fears of an epidemic

bumper rabi crop because of timely winter rains. Still the state faces an unprecedented drinking water shortage.

Except Narmada, Madhya Pradesh does not have many perennial rivers. And all of them are rain-fed and tend to dry up in summer. At one time, 67,000 of the 71,000 villages in Madhya Pradesh were categorised as "problem villages"—they had no reliable source of drinking water within two-and-a-half km.

Over the past two decades, the Government provided handpumps and wells to all except 145 problem villages, which are too difficult to reach or which have simply no underground sources of water. The Government had almost solved the drinking water problem in the state—or so it thought until this summer. To add to its woes, the water table too has shrunk due to over-exploitation.

In Mandsaur district, for example, there are more than a lakh tubewells, the largest number for any district in the country. In an effort to protect the water table, the Water Conservation Act was passed three years ago. Under the Act, the Government can declare any area as water scarce zone and prohibit use of underground or surface water resources for agricultural or industrial purposes.

OVER the past quarter century the emphasis has been on tube wells, discarding traditional tanks and stop dams which feed the water table. Says Raghuvanshi: "Earlier a 100-ft tubewell was considered deep enough. Now one easily goes up to 450 ft and thinks nothing of it."

The result is what Dewas faces today. The town's total requirement of water is 24 million litre per day. It was getting 6.5 million litre per day last year and 3.5 million litre now, 70 per cent of the supply coming from Kshipra and the rest from tubewells and handpumps.

Another badly-hit town is Tikamgarh as the Jamini river has dried up. The town, however, gets a trickle of water thanks to a dam built upstream by the Uttar Pradesh Government. The Madhya Pradesh Government had persuaded the Uttar Pradesh Government to flow water through its canal system back into the river. Thus, water to Tikamgarh comes from the canal 70 km away.

Raisen, near Bhopal—the district collector even thought of getting the town evacuated and sent a wireless message proposing such a move—gets water as the Irrigation Department lifted water from Kaliasaunt irrigation tank and pumped it into the dry bed of Betwa river. This water is now stored in a stop dam in Raisen, 75 km downstream. In the process, the water seeps underground raising the water table.

Gwalior's source, Tighra Tank, too has dried up. Water was pumped into it from two other irrigation tanks, Kaketo and Pahsari. Bhopal, which is supplied water once a day, is also getting its supply from the Kerwa irrigation dam. "Evaporation from the reservoir has been reduced by 30 per cent by spreading a chemical over the surface," claims a PHED spokesman.

The situation in towns like Ujjain, Sagar, Shujalpur, Ashtha and Sehore is no better, as they get water only on alternate days. At Sehore, water from pools of dried-up Parvati river is pumped to the main storage tank. At Itarsi, people queue up for water the whole night. In Rau, a town near Indore, water is brought in tankers from Indore and then pumped into the town's supply system.

Although the Government has pressed into service 645 rigs to drill tubewells—Rs42 crore are being spent to provide drinking water this summer alone—it does not want to repeat past mistakes. Says Dhyanendra Singh: "We are putting emphasis on deepening of existing wells, repair of old tanks, building stop dams and taking such measures that will augment water resources."

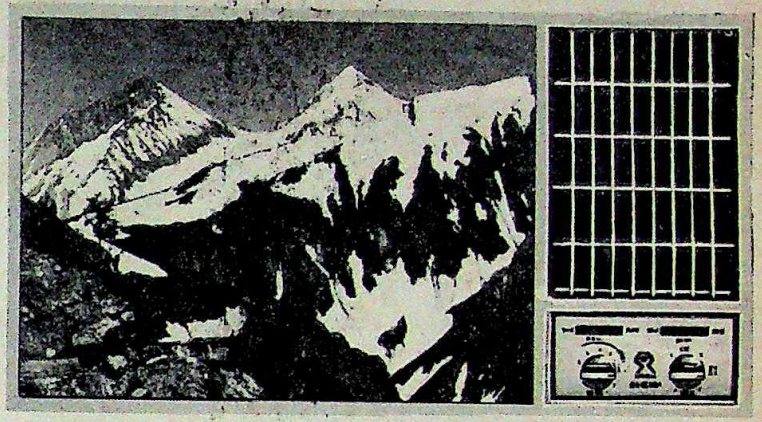
It better. For now the thirsty state even fears an outbreak of an epidemic. In that case, even the soothing showers of monsoon, if at all it comes on time, will be meagre consolation.

—N.K. SINGH in Dewas and Indore

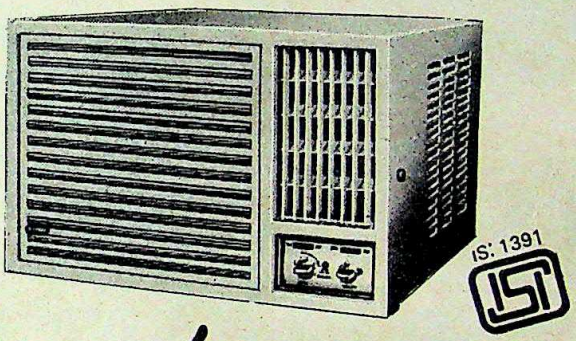
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Feel the freshness of the Swiss Alps without leaving your room



SIDWAL ROOM AIRCONDITIONERS

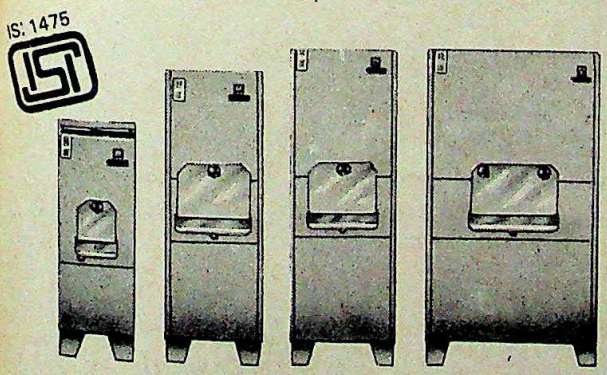


1, 1·5, 2 Tons

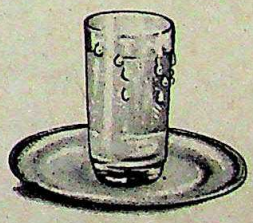
SIDWAL room airconditioners are elegant in design and are most advanced in cooling technology. At the heart of each unit is the rugged Kirloskar compressor designed by the world famous Tecumseh, U.S.A. And it is engineered for a quiet operation, with an effective air-throw of 20 ft. A special built-in overload protector ensures that the compressor is completely fail-safe.

☐ **Available on DGS & D Rate Contract**

and there's nothing more refreshing than a chilled glass of water



SIDWAL WATER COOLERS



All SIDWAL Water Coolers are heavy duty with stainless steel tank wrapped with copper cooling coils for maximum efficiency.
They provide cold running water chilled to refreshing 13.5°C.
Each unit comes with a factory fitted, highly efficient Kirloskar compressor designed by the world famous Tecumseh, U.S.A.

☐ **Available on DGS & D Rate Contract**

Also leading suppliers of: Package Airconditioners, Split Airconditioners and Fan Coil Units in various capacities.

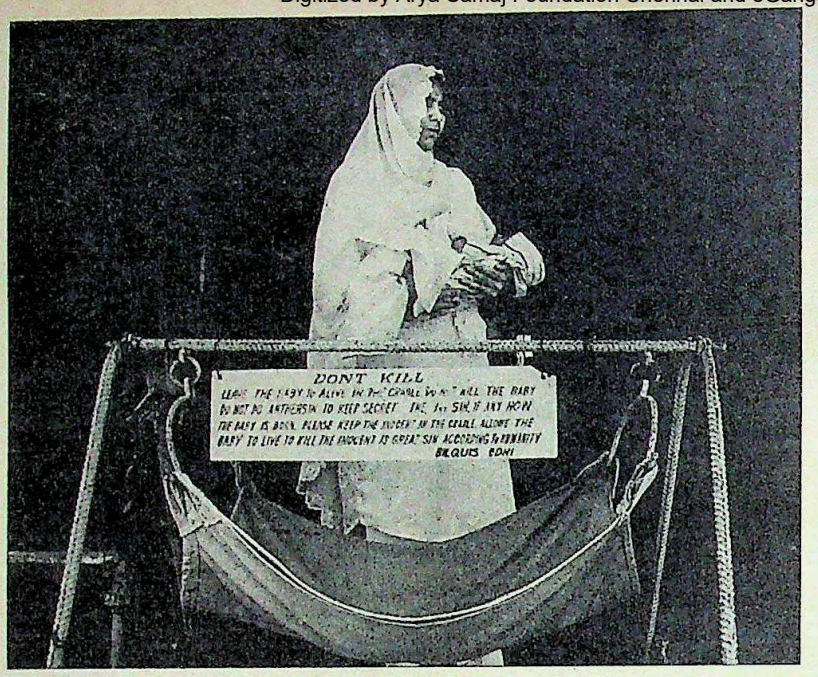
SIDWAL REFRIGERATION INDUSTRIES PVT. LTD.
Registered Office:
104, Chiranjiv Tower, 43, Nehru Place, New Delhi-110019.
Telex: 31-62155 SRI-IN Phone: 6439808, 6438422
Factory: Plot 23, Sector-6, Faridabad-121006.

SIDWAL
SIDWAL

Amritsar Tele.62456 **Bhopal** Tele.76844 **Bombay** Tele 4929288 **Calcutta** Tele.474987 **Chandigarh** Tele.27274 **Gorakhpur** Tele.5511
Jaipur Tele.60968 **Ludhiana** Tele.50899 **Pune** Tele.430194 **Secunderabad** Tele.77893 **Varanasi** Tele.66309

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



ABDUL SATTAR EDHI

Pakistan's 'Father Teresa'

He is an oddity in strife-torn Karachi. Providing help to the wounded, burial to the dead, shelter to destitute women and children, succour to drug addicts and asylum to lunatics. Features Editor SHEKHAR GUPTA and Photographer PRASHANT PANJIAR look into the world of Abdul Sattar Edhi.

THE crackle of static wakes the room up with a start. If the wireless set comes alive at 3.30 in the morning, it means bad news. It also means work for Abdul Sattar Edhi, the 61-year-old messiah of Karachi who, as he puts it in his heavily Gujarati-flavoured Urdu, sleeps only as long as his city lets him sleep.

Three more have fallen to the bullets of ethnic gangs in nearby Kharadar in Karachi's old quarter and the police say there is no one to claim the bodies. The fact is the police are too scared to approach the trouble-spot while bullets whine across the street.

Enter Edhi. The siren on the ambulance blares for a few fleeting seconds as he turns into the narrow, stricken lane. The firing dies down as warring sides, presumably Sindhis and Mohajirs, wait till the Maulana picks up the dead and the wounded and drives away. The thunder of Kalashnikovs again racks the night.

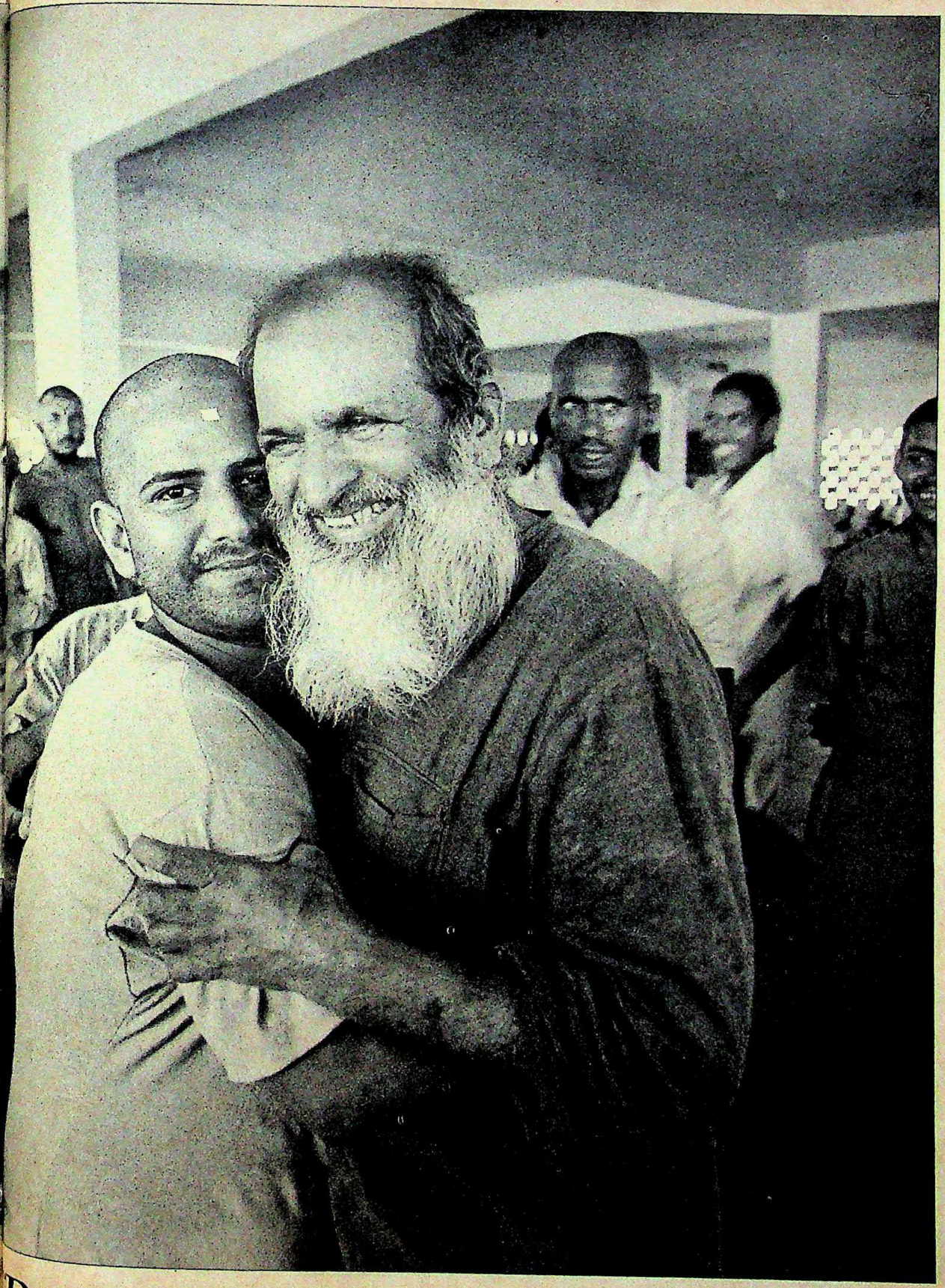
Back home, at Edhi's headquarters in Meethadhar, another normal day is beginning. Another unwanted baby, a day old, has been left in the cradle kept outside his home. Then the delicate teen-aged girl handling the wireless receiver leads a sobbing 11-year-old, Afshan, by the hand. She was found crying at the railway station and the police sent her to Edhi.

Afshan is from Sukkur and says she came to Karachi to work as an ayah. "*Bas, bas,*" Edhi interjects, "I know. Your *bibi* thrashed you. Didn't feed you.

Edhi hugs an inmate at the home for lunatics and drug addicts; (top left) the cradle for unwanted babies

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

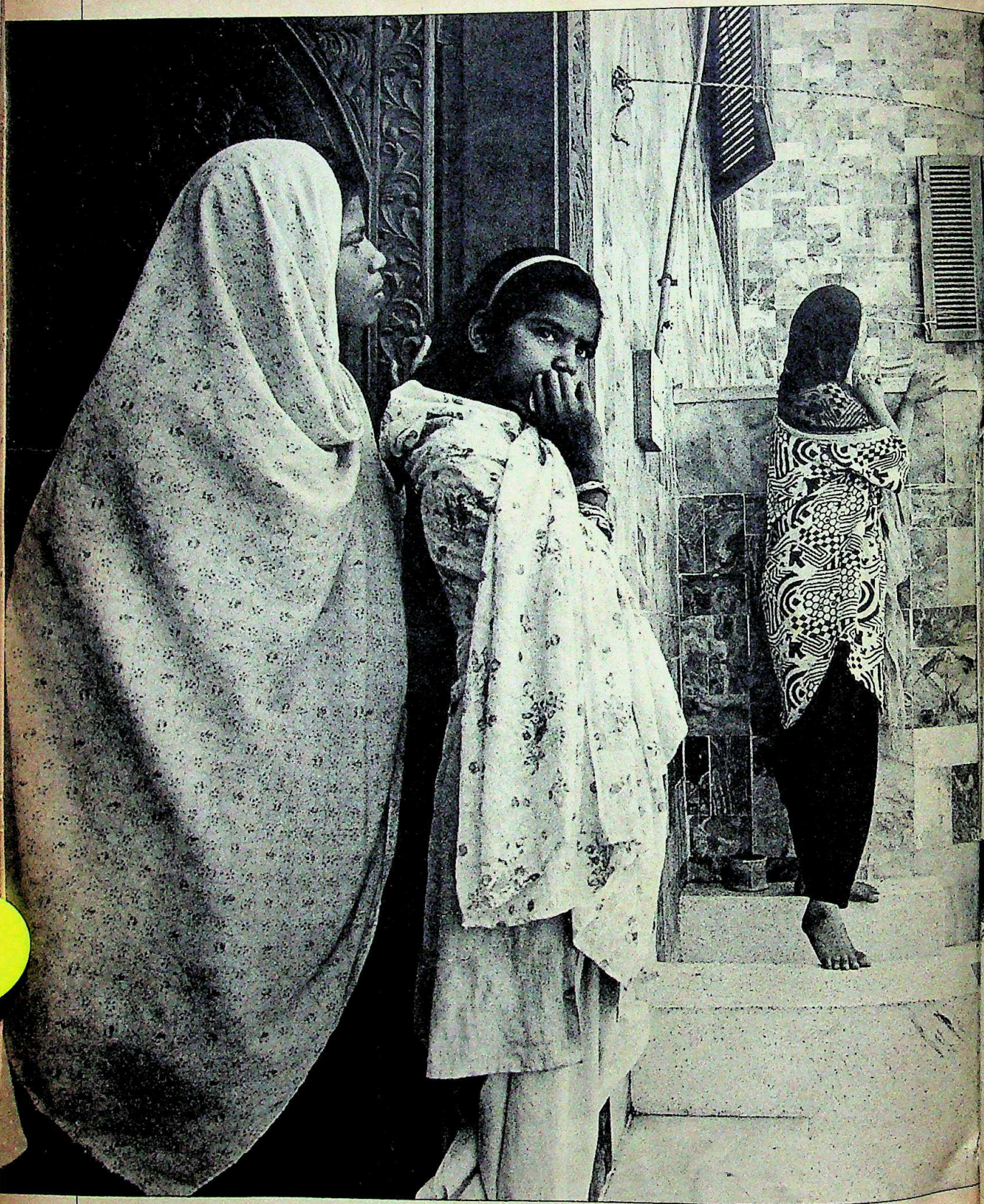
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



Devotion is a combination of worship and service. The mullah merely shows the path of salvation through prayer. I say, serve. And pray when you have the time for it."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

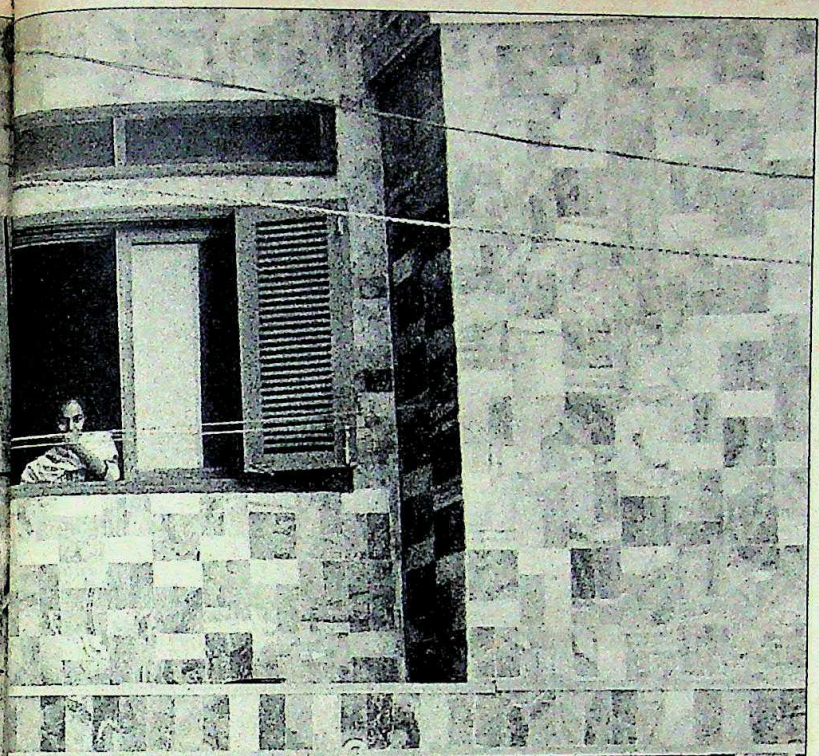
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

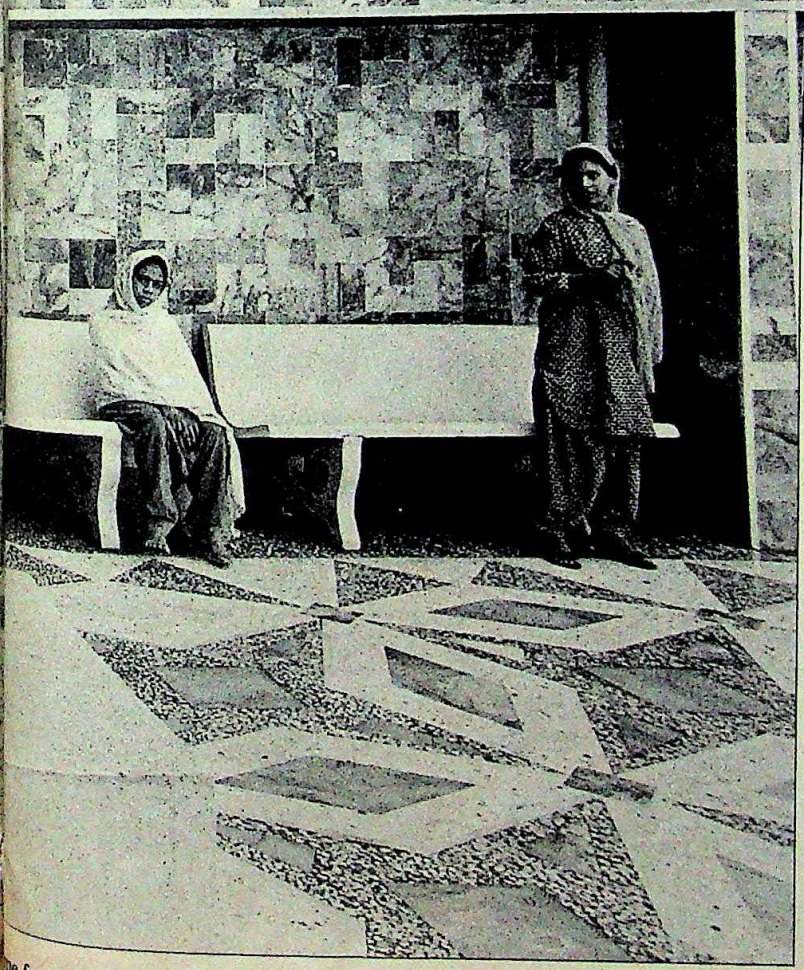


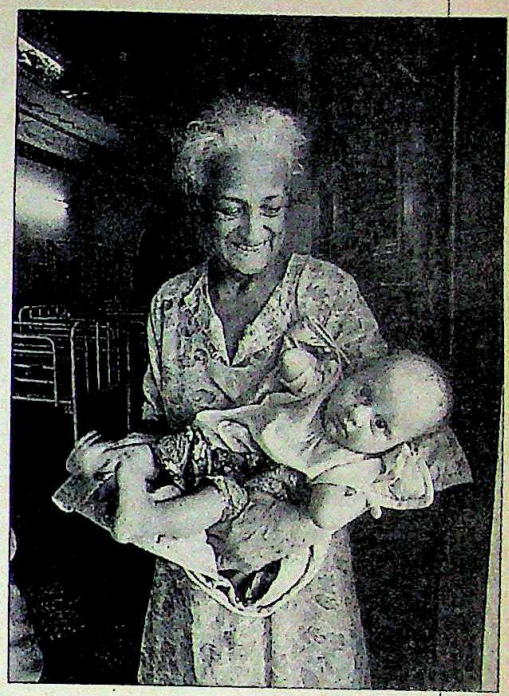
"Our men humiliate women and throw them out to satisfy their own ego. Our women kill babies born out of wedlock or with deformities because they are cowardly."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri







...e for destitute women and abandoned children at Karachi's fashionable ...on area; (top right) a German volunteer, Mrs Khan, holds a baby ...was abandoned because it was born with deformed arms

We'll send you home."

"You see," Edhi lapses into a characteristic phase of contemplation. "There are so many people, so many *prablims*. Solution to all of them is simple *insaniyat* and *bhaibandi*." Unwanted children, drug addicts, destitute women, and riots, he says, are symptoms of a society that is changing too fast. Where the good has failed to keep pace with the evil and where a man like him is an oddity.

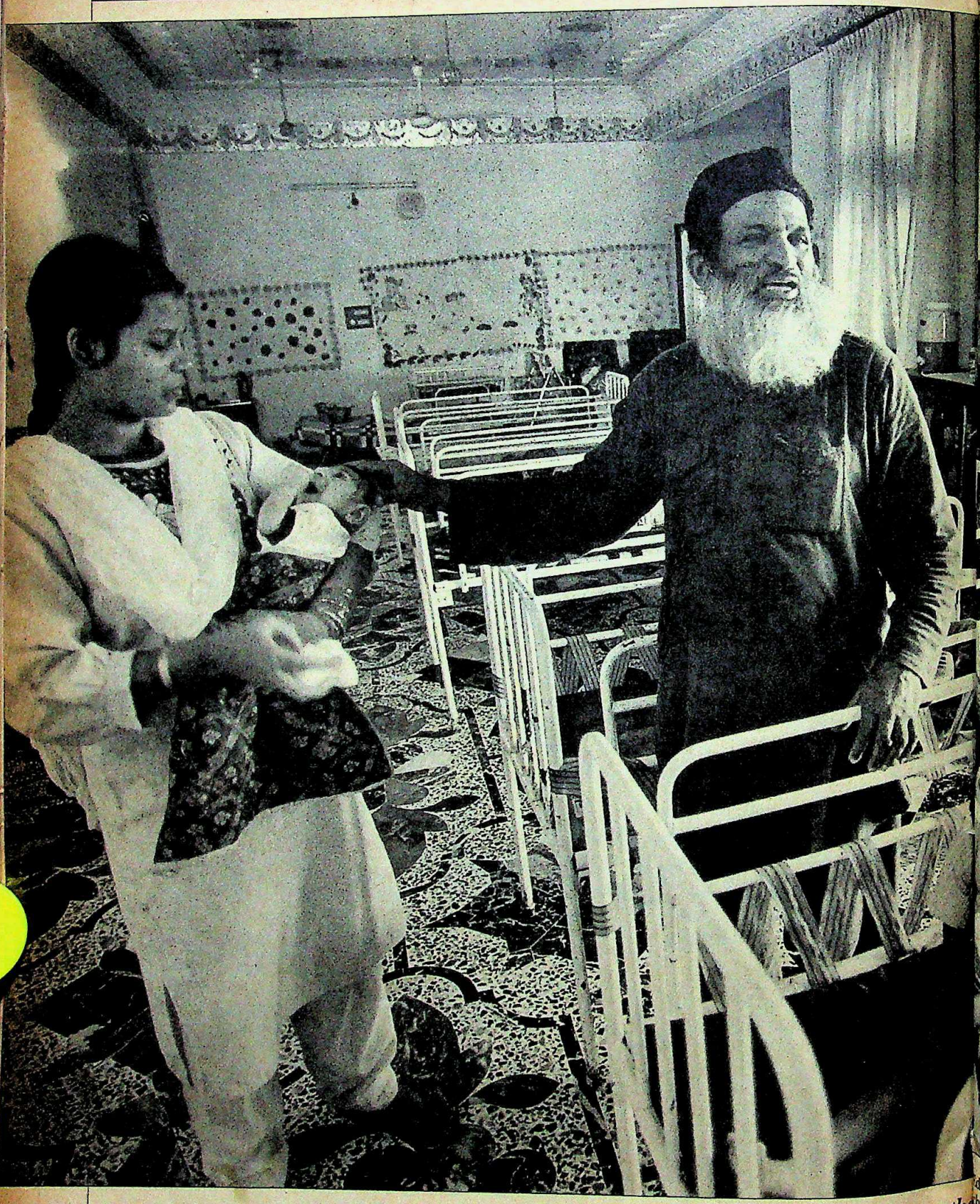
WIDELY acclaimed as Pakistan's 'Father Teresa', respected across the political spectrum despite his known aversion to religious orthodoxy, the Magsaysay Award winner Edhi, a class six drop-out, migrated to Pakistan from Junagadh in 1947. He was an ordinary teenager, nicknamed *Roti*, which seems so apt now when he feeds thousands of poor and hungry. He began life as a truck handyman. Then something changed it all.

"My mother got paralysed. We had no money, no medicines. She died in such pain," he winces, stiffens his jaws. Today pain on any face reminds him of his dying mother. Her death saw the end of Edhi, the truck handyman. He scraped and borrowed and bought a half-truck, his first ambulance. Today he has 350. All spanking white Suzuki vans with stretchers, oxygen cylinders, sirens and wireless sets. He also runs seven rehabilitation centres in and around Karachi, besides six outside.

The youngster who couldn't find medicines for his dying mother 26 years ago now feeds and clothes 7,500 in-

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



"I may be a beggar, but I'm no pauper. I've always tried to get my contributions from the lowliest roots of our society because that's where I come from. Yet I have enough."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

dhi at the home for handicapped
hildren; and with his helicopter-
mbulance: immense resourcefulness

mates at his centres. His name is emblazoned on his flying ambulances, a Bell Jet Ranger helicopter and a Piper Seneca. The truck handyman of not so long ago even has a clutch of pilots on his regular staff, making sorties to pick up the injured in the Sukkur train crash, the Lahore bomb blast or to an inaccessible village, deep inside Sindh, where a woman with a complicated pregnancy has been written off by an illiterate midwife. "The *prablim* is not how to reach them. The *prablim* is, how do they tell you in time that they need you." Edhi says he can't change the world. He can only set up wireless stations.

WISTFULLY Edhi says: "Wait till my 50-km scheme comes into effect." After every 50 km on the 1,700-km Karachi-Peshawar highway, he wants to set up a centre with a wireless, four hospital beds, paramedics, a minicentre for destitutes and, of course, a helipad. Just in case someone thinks it is all a flight of fancy, Edhi has already got land and wireless channels.

And money is not a *prablim*. "To begin with I need Rs 5 crore. So I will issue one crore tokens of Rs 5 each for people to buy. This way I will involve one crore Pakistanis. You see, I want my money to come from the lowliest roots of the society for that is where I come from." He also has no problem collecting for his current budget already running into Rs 12 crore annually. Many of his well-stocked centres could be the envy of middle class households.

Take the destitute women's home at Karachi's fashionable Clifton seafront. The two-acre marble-and-onyx mansion has over a dozen chandeliered bedrooms, each with a half-dozen carved walnut beds. The closets spill over with surplus clothes. There are cupboards full of orange squash, tomato ketchup, cartons of tea. Gifts from manufacturers and dealers. "I don't care who gives as long as there are no strings attached. I am a practical man."

So practical, that he didn't think twice before accepting the gift of the lavish Clifton mansion from a family of well-known smugglers—narcophilanthropists as they would be called in today's Pakistan. One of the sons was murdered at its doorstep and the family gave up the house as cursed. "I think it is blessed. See how happy my girls are," Edhi chuckles. But he makes exceptions. Like General Zia. "He brought me Rs 10 lakh. I said I won't take money tainted with religion. You see, he thought I must be a real maulana. I am just a Muslim with a beard."

If anything, the real maulanas hate him for being a maverick, for taking away a part of the charity that would have gone to mosques and the *madrasas*. Many *mullahs* have denounced him and forbidden people from giving Islamic charity to him. Edhi is undaunted. So are the donors. "The *mullahs* hate me because I threaten their *dukandaris*," he says, proudly pointing at the signboard displaying the rules to be observed in his centres, allowing non-Muslims to follow their own methods of prayer. He even declines to be photographed praying: "Why should I? I give such things no *prayoti* (priority)."

The lavishness of Clifton disappears as Edhi drives 90 km south of Karachi, halfway to the other troubled city of Hyderabad, to his 11-acre, walled redoubt. This is where he keeps his most difficult wards. Lunatics, some of them in chains. Drug addicts, who come, get reformed, return, become addicts again

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

To double the earning power of your savings account, cut this ad in half.

The SmartMoneyAccount. 10% interest instead of the usual 5% which you get from an ordinary savings account. How does it work?

Simple. Say, you've deposited Rs. 10,000. At 10% p.a. you earn Rs. 1000 in a year. OK, but what if you need to withdraw? No problem. Say, you withdraw Rs. 6000. On this, you pay overdraft interest at 12% p.a. Which works out to Rs. 720. However, your Rs. 1000 (interest on the original deposit) keeps coming. So, your net income is Rs. 1000–Rs. 720 = Rs. 280. In the case of an ordinary savings account, you would have earned 5% interest on your balance of Rs. 4000. That is, only Rs. 200. So, quick! Cut out the coupon. Because, idleness can be costly.

HongkongBank AnyTimeMoney

Get a FREE AnyTimeMoney Card with your SmartMoneyAccount. For instant banking, round-the-clock.

SmartMoneyAccount

HongkongBank
The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited

AnyTimeMoney Facility not available in Visakhapatnam

Yes! Each day costs me half the earning power of my savings. Hurry, send me more information on how I can make my money

S1 M3 A1 R1 T1

Name _____
Address _____
_____
_____ Tel _____

fold here

Business Reply
Inland Letter Card

No postage stamp necessary if posted in India

Permit No. BY-S-381 Bombay GPO Bombay 400 001

Postage will be paid by addressee

To,
The Customer Service Officer
HongkongBank
52-60 M.G. Road
Bombay 400 001.

IT 3

fold to stick

HKB SMA P 8 2517

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

"I told Husain why paint me, an ordinary man. But people of Karachi say: if Allah does his job in heaven and Edhi on our streets there is nothing to worry about."

and come back. "They are hopeless. All I can do is save them the humiliation of lying on the street like dogs." Cries of "*Abbu, Abbu*" (father) go up as he wades through the shallows of misery, spreading smiles in his wake. This is where he also keeps his 40-odd Romanian-built ambulances which turned into junk within weeks. "What was his name, Ceausescu? He cheated me. See what God did to him. Write that, so others know. Edhi may not pray that much. God looks after Edhi."

Personally, Edhi does not need much looking after. He lives with his wife, Bilquis, in the same one-room apartment where he started out 26 years ago, barely spends a few hundred rupees on his family each month—his daughter is married and two sons are studying in the US. He wears the same blue-grey, coarse khadi kurta-pajama 24 hours of the day and buys no more than Rs 10 worth of soap in a year.

On the way back from Karachi he stops for lunch at a roadside dhaba. A few minutes more at the wheel and the maulana approaches a section of the two-lane super-highway where two more lanes are being built to make traffic faster and less hazardous along Pakistan's booming industrial belt. Only a few kilometres of the new lanes have been built, so no one coming from the opposite direction uses them as yet. A flick of the eye over his shoulder and Edhi shifts into the third gear, deftly swinging his van on to the opposite side. Edhi doesn't mind getting around the law, breaking rules, conventions, anything, as long as it doesn't harm anyone, helps the poor, or just saves him a minute or two. "People call me rebellious. Some say I am communist. I say in my business, if I am not practical, nothing will work," he rationalises.

TALES of his "practical" iconoclasm are legion, some true, some apocryphal. Of how he prepared fictitious papers showing how a man, just killed in a street fight, had donated his eyes. His argument: if he was going to pick up the body, wash it, read the *fateha* and bury it, he surely could take the eyes from it to give a blind man. Of how he refuses to submit his finances for public accounting, pleading: "If auditors could ensure honesty, Pakistan *sarkar* would be the world's most pristine entity." Of how he refused to help the police identify dacoits who robbed his neighbours. Apparently, as he came out on hearing gunshots, the robbers said, "Maulana saheb, you are a good man, you get aside." Later the police asked him if he knew the robbers. "I told them, the robbers knew me and so what? All of Pakistan knows Edhi." Edhi has a point. "If I start helping the police, who in this city of crooks will let me help the wounded?"

Edhi's is a one-man show. He even keeps his accounts himself and brooks no nonsense. Inayatullah comes in pleading that his sister, who was widowed the previous week and had borrowed a casket from Edhi to transport her husband's body from Lahore, has lost her deposit receipt (Since the poor can't afford wooden caskets, Edhi has got a few made of steel which he loans out against a refundable deposit of Rs 1,200). "How can I refund the money without the receipt?" asks Edhi. "But my sister has brought the casket back?" pleads Inayatullah. "If I start giving out money without receipts what will be the difference between Sattar Edhi and the Pakistan *sarkar*?"

"But at least give me some advice. What should I do?" begs Inayatullah.

"The *prablim* in this world is, everyone gives advice. Even Allah. He keeps sending his advice in books—the Koran, the Bible and the Gita—while he himself stays in heaven in his *air-kandeeshan* comfort. The *prablims* of real life are different. Practical."

Edhi's patience is running out. But the wireless comes to his aid. Another whine of static. Another clash. Another wounded. And the saviour of Karachi drives out again. The day is over. But the night has just begun.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

HKB SMA P 8 2517

AnyTimeMoney Facility not available in Visakhapatnam

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

COUNT ON ISPAT PROFILES FOR HIGH QUALITY AND DEPEND-ABILITY EVERY TIME

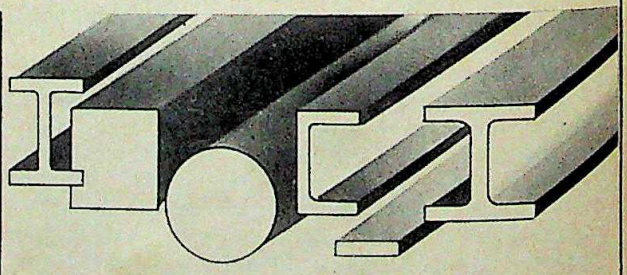
ISPAT

At ISPAT PROFILES, we don't just roll steel; we start out right from steel making. Our facilities are among the finest in the world — a computer controlled UHP Furnace, a Robot to control ladle movement, Ladle Refining Furnace, VD, VOD, Electromagnetic Bloom Caster, Bloom Reheating Furnace and a Sophisticated Universal Mill — the only one of its kind in India, with state-of-the-art quality control and testing facilities.

Naturally, our steel is virtually zero defect. Besides such sophisticated items like Rails and H-Beams, we also offer a wide range of Channels, Joists, Beams and Special Carbon and Alloy Steels.

So, next time you order steel, make sure its from ISPAT PROFILES. It's your guarantee of steel of the highest quality.

I Beams	300x140, 250x125, 200 x 100, 150x75,125 x70
Channels	300 x 90, 250 x 80/82, 200 x 75/76
H-Beams	152 x 152/150 x 150
Wide Flange Beams 8" x 6" (200 x 150)	
Special Carbon & Alloy Steels	
Rounds	80 to 125 mm dia.
Squares	63 mm to 180 mm Sq.
Blooms	200 mm Sq., 250 mm Sq., 320 mm x 220 mm
Rails	75 and 90 lbs./yard.
Stainless Steel Flats 180 mm x 20 mm	



For further details, please contact:

ISPAT

ISPAT PROFILES INDIA LIMITED
Mahendra Chambers, 4 Dhole Patil Road,
Pune 411 001.
Tel: 669591/2/3 Telex: 0145-230 IPIL IN
Fax: (0212) - 669161
FACTORY (SANASWADI) Tel: 021175-338

Branch Office Telephone Nos.

CALCUTTA	:	294395, 295102
BOMBAY	:	2045134, 2873726
DELHI	:	501803, 501804
MADRAS	:	863516
RAJKOT	:	23606

PRESSMAN

Changing the profile of Steel.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Photographs by SATINDRA BINDRA

CANADA

Ethnic Enclave

Gerrard Street is Toronto's 'Little India'

THE tantalising aroma of tandoori chicken and curries wafts out of the bustling Gerrard India Bazaar in downtown Toronto, attracting visitors by the score. On weekends, hordes of Ontario's 100,000 Indian immigrants descend there to splurge on *ampapad, chat, bhels* and *karelas* freshly flown from India. Gerrard Street is the latest symbol of the Indian diaspora, outpacing London's Southall and New York's Jackson Heights.

Yet, not many years ago, Gerrard Street with its rundown structures scarcely invited a second look. It was only with the arrival of Indians in 1970 from all over the world—South Africa, India, East Africa, England, the US—that the neighbourhood changed dramatically. Recalls Ashok Navani, owner of the Indian Record Shop: "When I started out, it was a grimy neighbourhood of people on welfare."

Hard work and perseverance altered all that. Today, Little India—as it's affectionately known—stretches for almost half a kilometre, making it the largest concentration of Indian business in North America.

The 150 stores—owned mainly by Sikhs and Gujaratis—cater to every Indian need. The ubiquitous McDonald's and Kentucky Fried Chicken signs in the rest of the city are replaced here by the flashy neon boards of the Qutub Minar and Moti Mahal restaurants. Inside these small eateries, an odd mixture of the city's many nationalities—Greeks, Italians and even Chinese—wash down cheese *dosas* with frothy Guru beer.

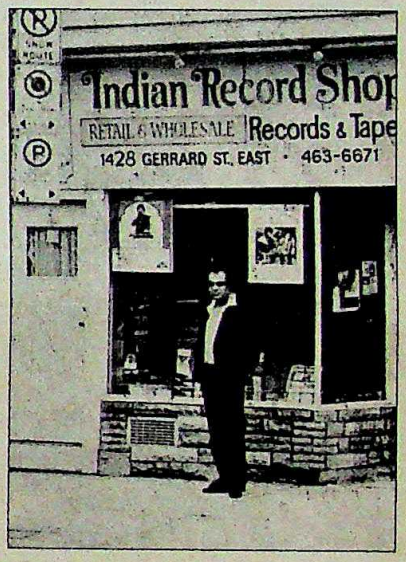
Outside, sari-clad mannequins in windows make it hard to believe it's Toronto. Shoppers squeeze into Milans Department Store—which proclaims itself "the largest Indian department store in North America". The store sells everything from tablas, supari and silk sarees to salwar-kameezes. Says proprietor Kantibhai Vaghela: "Gerrard Street is the Indian answer to Toronto's Chinatown."

Sleek Transams cruise by, their stereos blaring songs by Pankaj Udhas or Malkiat Singh. Film magazines disappear as soon as they're put up. Says M. Khurshid, 18, who visits the street to buy magazines: "I like to read about Kapil Dev and cricket."

Gerrard Street is also a centre for "220 volts" electronics goods. Baltej Singh, 20, a salesman at House of 220, a wholesale electronics firm, says the shopping mall is popular with East Europeans, especially Soviets: "They pick up presents here because other stores in the city stock only the standard 110 volts."

In the Indian Record Shop, executives in business suits rub shoulders with teenagers. They're not there for the music though. They're more intent on finalising a property deal with proprietor Ashok Navani. Navani, who owns 22 stores in the area—worth a staggering Canadian $40 million (about Rs 60 crore)—brushes aside his rising fame as the "Donald Trump of Gerrard Street". Says he: "All I know is that business is booming."

Among the latest arrivals in the area are Narendra Arora, 36, and his wife Chitra, 27, who have set up a fashion store. "We're very happy here," says Arora. "It's neat and clean, and there's no drugs or prostitution."



(Clockwise from above) Navani outside his shop; Milans Store; Narendra and Chitra

There are few policemen and the street appears calm and orderly, unlike Southall which was recently rocked by gang violence. Says Prabhudas Lodhia of Shubh Laxmi Jewellers Inc: "We've not had any major break-ins here. I pay four times as much rent here. But it's still worthwhile."

Most agree. Says Chitra Arora: "We set up business in Gerrard Street because we didn't want to be completely cut off from India." Many of the street's entrepreneurs share that sentiment. Says an electronics dealer: "We're very aware of our common background." The huge tricolours everywhere are evidence of that.

For the store-owners of Gerrard Street, it has truly been the best of both worlds. —SATINDRA BINDRA in Toronto

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

The Wages of Sin

GRASS WITHOUT ROOTS

By BUNKER ROY

AN incredible 90 per cent of the 600,000 villages in India have a population of less than 2,000. And after four decades they still remain the personal property of a handful of village-level bureaucrats who openly exploit the rural poor: they know they have the power to get away with breaking the law, twisting rules, ignoring government orders and sabotaging anti-poverty schemes. No one questions how important government circulars supposed to protect the life and property of the rural poor end up in village tea-shops used to wrap *barfis* and *puris*.

The system is on the verge of collapse with no accountablity at any level, even as experts in New Delhi agitate only about changing policy and making new laws. The last time they worked in villages (if at all) was over two decades ago and they do not think the villages have changed since. The issues they are getting worked up about sound tragicomic.

A rash promise about right to work, and this government has gone into a coma. But this can only be ensured if the Minimum Wages Act is given some teeth. However, there is no indication of this being done. But how can anyone demand a right to work if he or she has no right to a decent wage? The Government is the worst offender of this law. In Gujarat during the worst drought for years, an ordinance brought the minimum wage *down* from Rs 17 to Rs 11. There were hundreds of 'starvation' deaths, which village-level bureaucrats classified as 'poverty deaths'.

While people were dying, a casual debate was on among well-fed policy-makers whether wage employment should be given more importance or self-employment. These people ought to be classified as criminals because their indecision has led to many deaths.

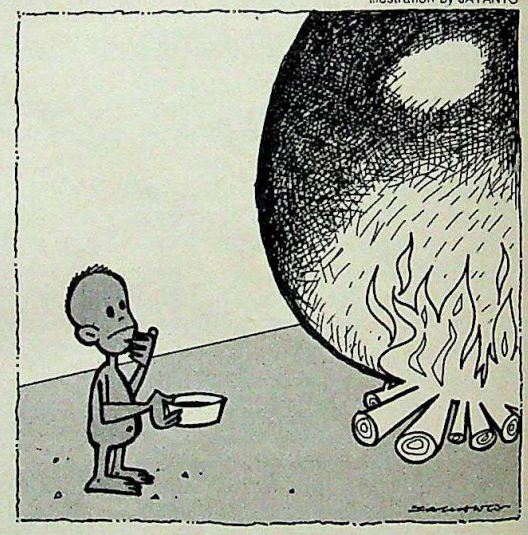
Today under the Minimum Wages Act one has no right to work. It is at the pleasure of the 'mate' who looks after the roster to give you work, strike you off the rolls, and measure the work you have done to ensure that you always get less than is rightfully yours. The punishments under this Act are so absurd that I dare say there has been no conviction in the Act's history. This government certainly does not have the guts or the vision to amend it. So this right to work is going to be a non-starter.

Linked to the right to wages is the problem of availability of food and essential supplies. We are experts in deflecting the issue by saying we should be proud the country is producing 170 million tonnes of food grains. But is it reaching the rural poor and how are questions no one is prepared to face. Of the 350,000 ration shops ostensibly functioning, 29 per cent are run by suspect village-level cooperatives and the rest by private traders. These very traders run their own private shops in the same village. Under the Public Distribution System (PDS) a fair price shop is supposed to stock seven essential items: wheat, rice, edible oil, sugar, kerosene, soft coke and controlled cloth. Over 90 per cent of those in rural areas will not be stocking these because the initiative to run the PDS remains with the cooperatives or private traders and not with the Government. Only after a demand draft is deposited with the Civil Supplies Corporation can the cooperative lift the supplies.

Since most of them are grossly mismanaged, the rural poor are forced to depend on the private traders. There is a strong case for linking the PDS with the banking system. This will enable shop owners to lift their quotas and introduce a credit system for all ration card holders. Also there is a distinct urban bias at the expense of the rural, hilly, tribal and coastal areas.

The Food Corporation of India has been forbid-

Illustration by JAYANTO



den to procure coarse grain even though it is the staple food of the poor. This government should allow it under the PDS immediately.

The time has come to think in terms of food subsidies. If the fertiliser industry and rich farmers can be subsidised to the tune of Rs 4,000 crore; if electricity, irrigation water, seeds, public transport and tractors could be subsidised by several thousand crore rupees there is no justification for the 200 million families living below the poverty line to be denied the basic right to receive food at subsidised rates. Numerous calculations have been made and all of them are below Rs 1,000 crore. The previous government was too full of World Bank-returned experts with no rural experience to appreciate the political advantage of introducing this subsidy. But this government, by taking this one step, could guarantee its remaining in power for the next two decades.

It is such crucial issues that planners should be burning their midnight oil over today, rather than showing their personal kinks for non-issues like cutting down Centrally Sponsored Schemes, as if this is going to improve the life of the rural poor.

The author is Director, The Social Work & Research Centre, Tilonia, Rajasthan

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

SIZE COUNTS. BUT SO DOES CONCERN.

The 1990s will belong to the corporation that can practically demonstrate its concern.

What does the word 'concern' imply for corporate enterprise? Concern is the ability to create products relevant to the environment, products that give value for money and offer new, better solutions to the conditions they tackle.

The human face of Corporate Enterprise In the 1990s it is the large corporation that will be able to demonstrate this level of concern. Through increased investments in R&D. Through planned human resource development.

Through collaborations that bring the world's best to India. And of course, through a concerted effort to improve the quality of life in ways that are not merely product based.

Escorts in the 1990s From its inception, Escorts has firmly believed that success hinges on being close to the customer. And today we are ready to confront the challenges of the 1990s.

Our diversifications have been carefully placed in the core sectors of the nation's growth. Through an extensive investment in R&D and an enviable range of collaborations we have created products that contribute to basic development.

Beyond manufacture, we have forged a closely-knit relationship with our dealers and customers — a relationship that is admired and emulated. And through our village adoption and afforestation programmes and the Escorts Medical Centre and the Escorts Heart Institute & Research Centre, we have sought to improve the way of life around us.

Today, with 22,000 employees, 16 modern manufacturing plants and a turnover of nearly Rs. 800 crores, Escorts is among India's top ten engineering corporations.

On the threshold of the 1990s, we reaffirm our commitment to the principles and the people who have brought us here.

ESCORTS LIMITED

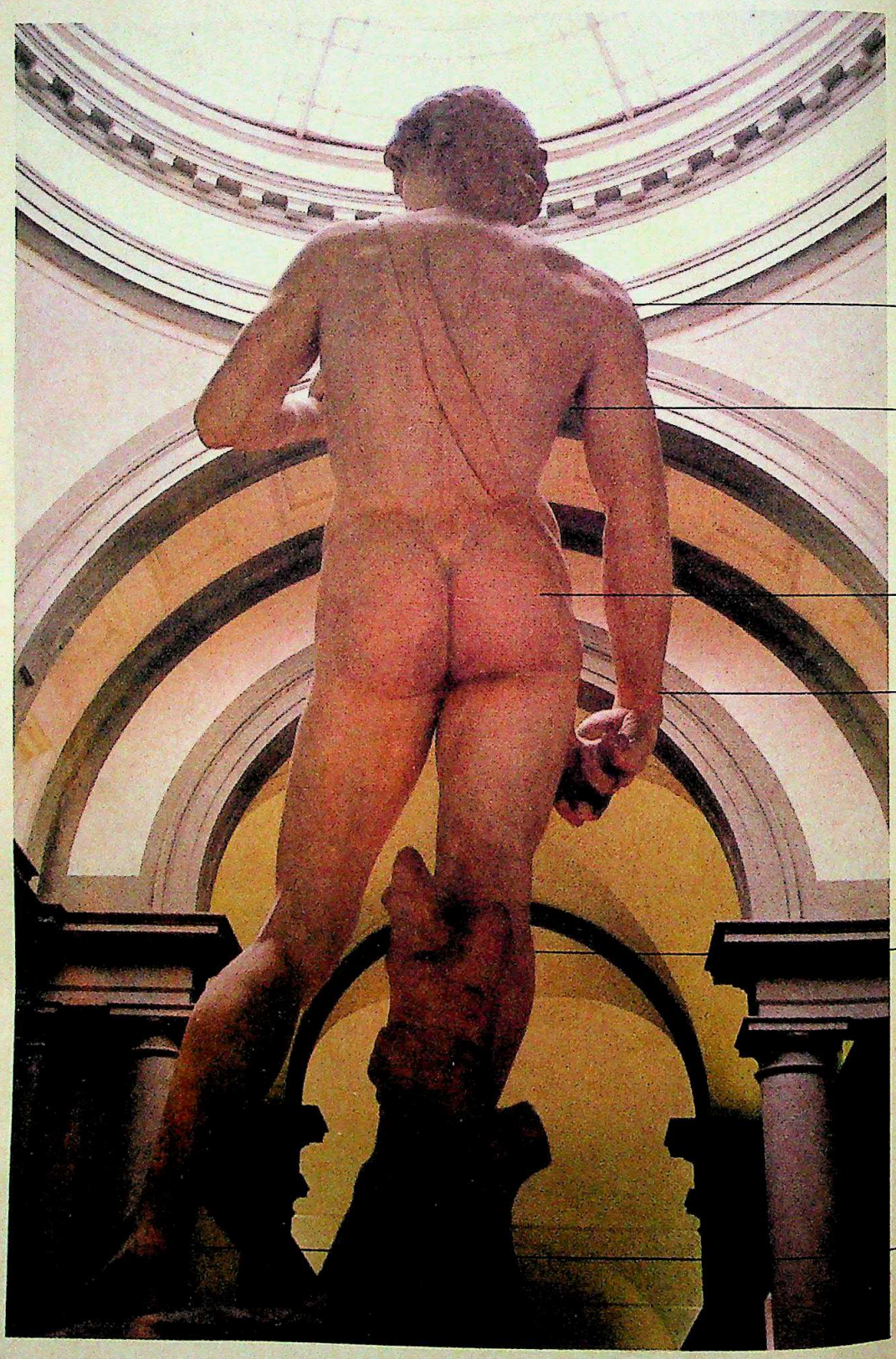
ENGINEERING CHANGE

Anthem/EL/633/2

The Escorts Group of Companies • Escorts Limited • Goetze (India) Limited • Escorts JCB Limited • Escorts Tractors Limited • Escorts Herion Limited.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

HATHAWAY

PACO RABANNE

Crystal

ROLEX

LEVIS

NIKE

THE FINE ART OF UNDRESSING

Designer undergarments by Crystal®

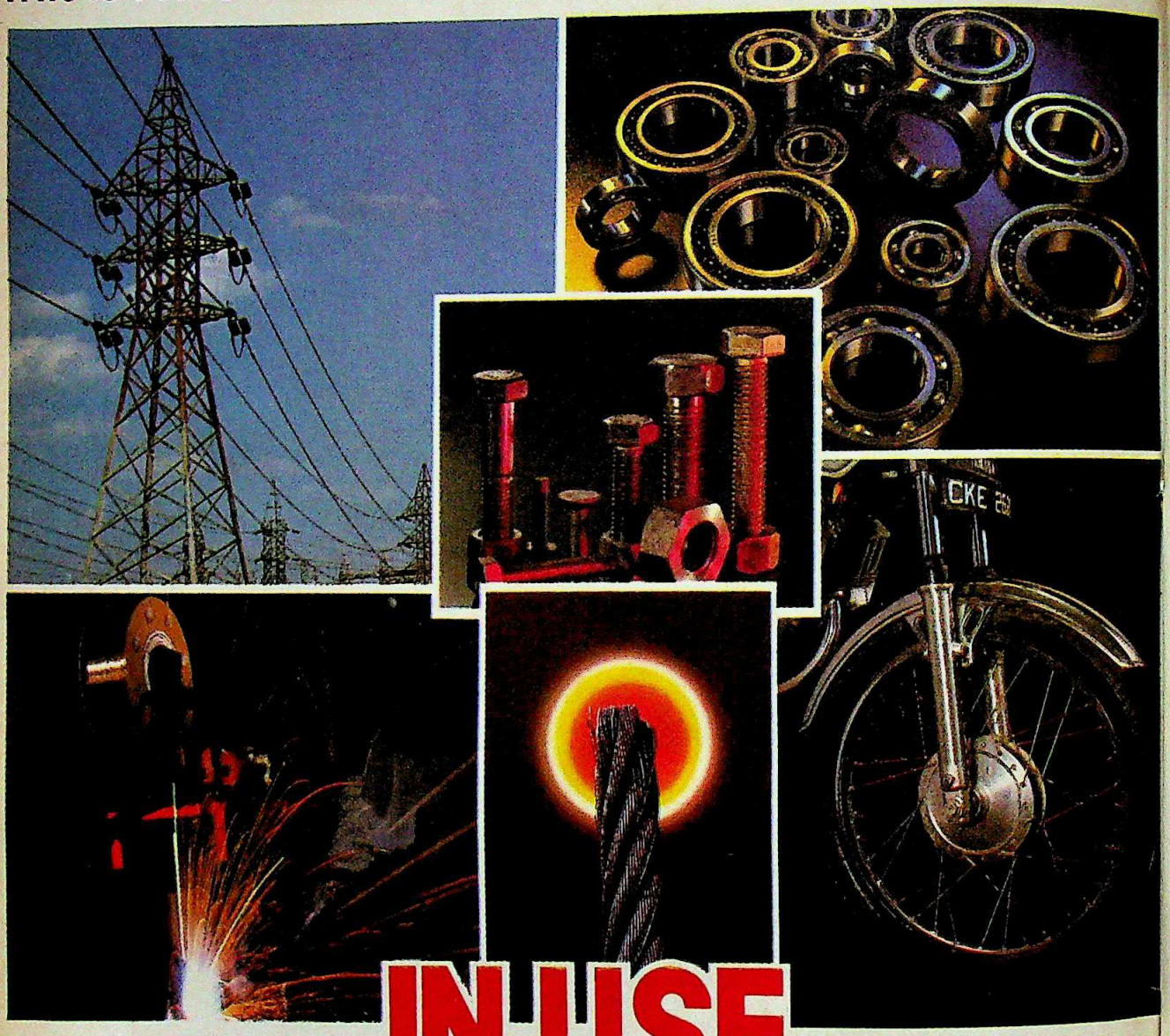
100 percent mercerised cotton

LINTAS M CG C1 2435

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

THIS IS A PICTURE OF HIGH TECHNOLOGY AND QUALITY STEEL



... IN USE

Bhoruka Steel Limited produces steel that is tested and trusted in the toughest applications throughout industry. The demand for quality steels is soaring. And with it is Bhoruka's growth.

A comprehensive modernisation programme has given a new edge to the legendary Bhoruka reputation for quality.

A team consisting of highly trained and committed personnel give of their best to maintain the highest quality standards and productivity.

And a captive hydel unit, the only one of its kind in the country, ensures that we will always have the power to be the best.

The Bhoruka product range primarily includes Low and High Carbon grades of wire rods, cold heading steels, free cutting and low alloy steels, gas shielded electrode grade steels and special application wires.

This means a contribution to nearly every sector of industry with applications ranging from tyre beading, cycle spokes, springs, fasteners, steel balls for ball bearings, grinding media to welding electrodes and conductors for power and telecommunications.

Is it any wonder Bhoruka is poised to take off. To even greater heights.

BHORUKA STEEL LIMITED

Whitefield Road, Mahadevapura Post, Bangalore 560 048

MAA COMMUNICATIONS 115

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

PLATFORM SCHOOLS

On the Right Track

Destitute children are taught on railway stations

BHUBANESWAR railway station. The 8007 up Howrah-Puri Express is chugging out when Sinod jumps out of a compartment, his tiny arms overflowing with used trays and glasses. Dumping his 'booty', he runs to the end of the platform.

There, he is joined by other vagrants who drag a trunk containing books and pencils from the waiting room. Within minutes, the platform is transformed into a classroom. Yet, for the past few years, this nameless school—run by the social service wing of the local Ruchika English Medium School and co-sponsored by the Salaam Baalak Trust—has been conducting a unique educational experiment among destitute children. It has been running a platform school which prefers to relate education to the children's everyday experiences. One example: they are made to learn about cities and states from the destinations of the trains.

Initially set up as a Sunday school, it was converted into a regular primary school because of the enthusiastic response of the urchin-students. Says Inderjit Khurana, the director-secretary of the Ruchika trust: "We caught on very fast." And last November, a similar educational workshop for runaway children was started by the Salaam Baalak Trust at the Delhi station. Located within the precincts of the station *thana*, it conducts a daily three-hour programme for around 32 children—all of whom work as coolies.

Unlike Bhubaneswar, this is not a formal school. Nukkad—as it calls itself—is an informal learning centre which prepares the urchins for formal school. Says Shabnam Ahmed, a teacher at the centre: "We try and relate to them in their own environment." Adds Sanjoy Roy, a Salaam Baalak trustee: "The idea is to restore their lost childhood and find job placements for them."

However, for these children, such ambitions are not easy to fulfil. Two children in the Bhubaneswar school were beaten by policemen when the school first started. But, as Khurana recalls: "Our persistence changed the attitude of the police." Similarly, in Delhi there was the constant threat of being put into a children's home. Though the trust has given them identity badges, the threat still exists.

Many, however, have successfully crossed the initial barriers. One is Devraj, a student with a congenital defect in the arm. His education helped him get a job as a bus conductor. More so, the students are proud of what they have learned. Says Chiti, the shoeshine boy: "I know who India's prime minister is, where the Eiffel Tower is and what Bofors means."

While some of the children are starry-eyed—like Toofan in Delhi, who has named himself after the Amitabh Bachchan starrer—others are more realistic. Nazir, who spent two years in a Delhi children's home, says: "I hope to learn some English to get a job."

But the problems continue. For one, there is a high drop-out rate. Admits Rameshwari Prasad Dwivedy, the project officer in Bhubaneswar: "They simply drop out of our sight." Over the years, only about 22 children from the school have pursued higher studies. Among the ex-pupils are a pimp, a drug-addict and a prostitute.

One of the reasons for the students' apathy is that after the three-hour routine is over, they have nowhere to go. Vinod gets back to his rag-picking business. And Chiti is forced to get back to his brush and polish. And in Delhi, they are all back to carting heavy luggage on the station.

Undaunted, the schools continue with their efforts to put the lives of these destitute children back on the rails.

—RUBEN BANERJEE and SUGITA KATYAL

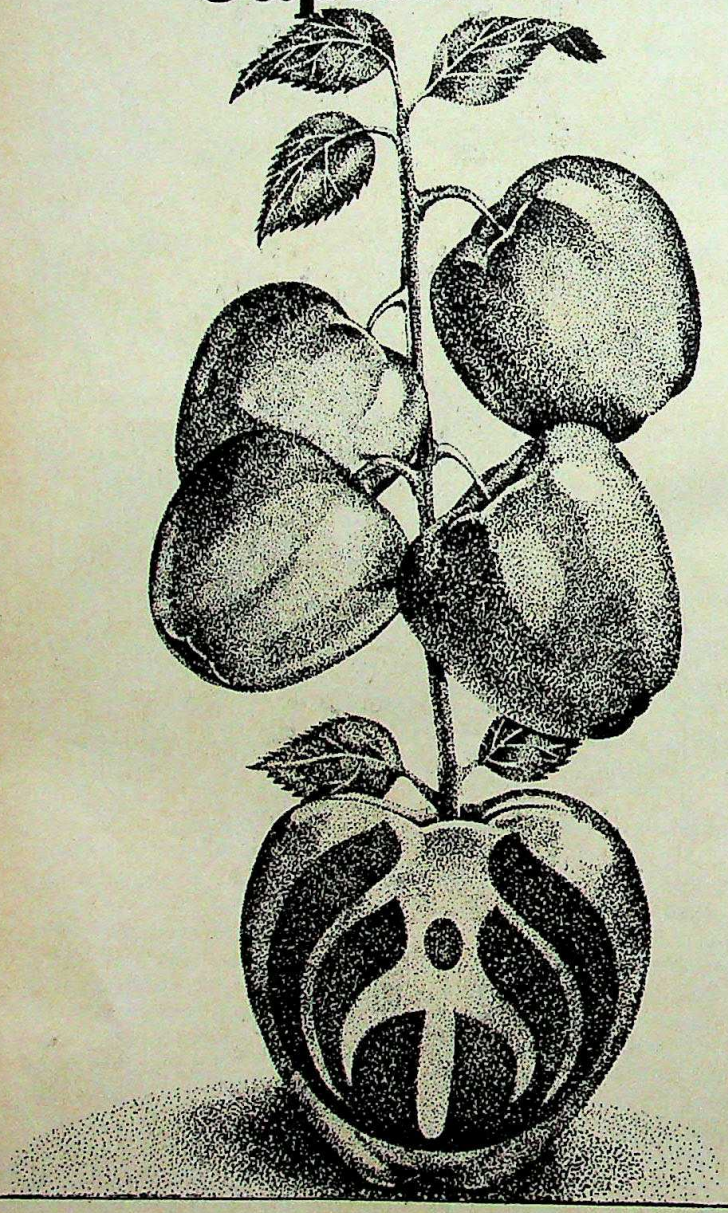
Eastern Press Agency

Bhubaneswar school: unique venture

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

IDBI Capital Bonds An attractive instrument for exemption from Capital Gains Tax.



- Available at par throughout the year.
- Exemption from Capital Gains tax under Section 54E of the Income Tax Act, 1961.
- Exemption from Wealth tax under Section 5(1) (xvie) of the Wealth Tax Act, 1957
- Income tax benefit under Section 80L.
- Interest at 9% p.a. payable half yearly.
- At the investor's option, interest for the full period of 3 years can be paid in advance on discounted basis.
- No deduction of tax at source.
- Outstation cheques accepted and cost of collection will be borne by IDBI.

For further details contact the nearest IDBI office or write to Manager

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT BANK OF INDIA

IDBI TOWER, Cuffe Parade, Colaba, Bombay 400 005.

Sobhagya-90

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

VIJAY AMRITRAJ

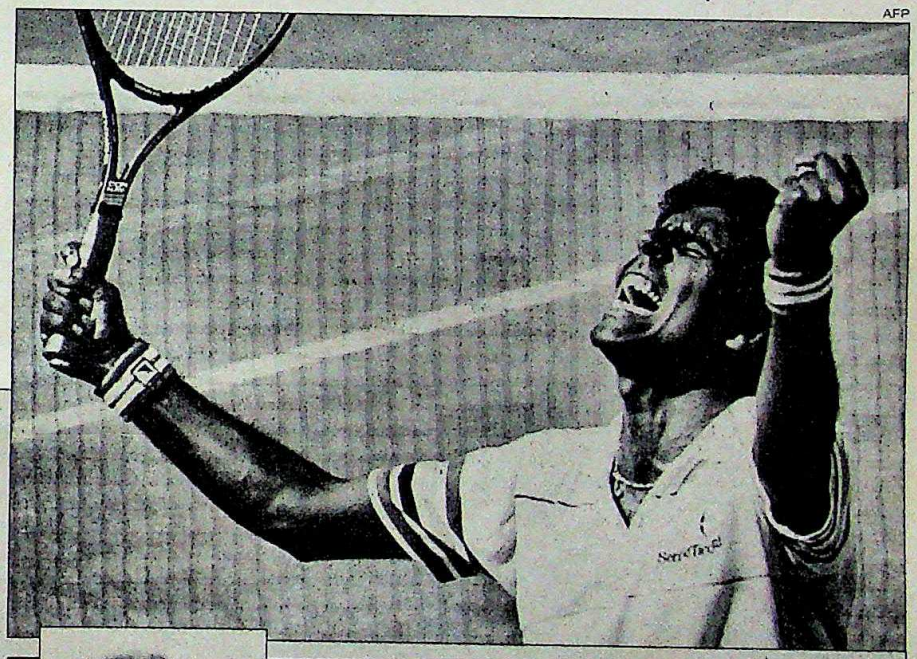
Courting Glory

Vijay Amritraj is without doubt among the greatest sportsmen India has produced. In a two-decade career that saw ups and downs he beat the world's best and also came to be known as one of the most affable and gentlemanly stars on the professional tennis circuit. In *Vijay Amritraj: An Autobiography*, to be published shortly, the superstar recalls his sickly childhood, his tennis times, his entry into Hollywood, and the people and events that influenced his life. INDIA TODAY presents exclusive extracts:

IF there are any parents of sick, weak kids reading this, my message is simple: 'Don't despair: I suppose I have achieved enough as an international athlete by now to prove that a robust beginning to life is not a pre-requisite to success.' Good health was not one of the things I was blessed with as a child, but I had something that was more important—good, strong parents. Without them I'd never have made it.

Some of my earliest memories are of lying on an ironing board at our home on Sterling Road with my feet in the air and my head, face down, pointing toward the floor. This was to relieve the congestion in my chest. I don't know how close I came to be being born with cystic fibrosis, the lung disease that virtually chokes children to death as the mucus builds up to unmanageable proportions, but it seems I might have been close because at the age of five and

AFP



Domestic Upset

THERE is no point in trying to hide the fact that my greater gifts at tennis created a very difficult period in our family...This is how my father looked back on this period in our lives.

"At Poona in 1975 all the best players were competing in the Asian Championships and we were thrilled when the two boys made it to the final. But then Vijay handed Anand a very bad beating which was not at all what I had expected or hoped. I was very upset. It was not the way things were supposed to happen. The eldest son was supposed to lead and I felt Vijay should have recognised that. I confess I took it up with him very severely when he returned home. I was totally wrong and I see that now. Neither my wife nor I said a word to Anand about it, because we felt it was Vijay's mistake but really it was ours. It became a very, very difficult time for all of us until it was clearly understood and accepted that Vijay, as the more naturally gifted, was the No. 1 player.

"I spoke to Vijay the next day. I was less severe on that occasion... He felt it his duty to win and naturally he was right. Unfortunately I think it affected Vijay for a long time. I think he had the capacity to make it into the top five in the world early in his career but we may well have hindered his progress by the stance we took over Anand.

"It was just that the traditional order, what we considered right, got in the way of our judgement."

Vijay thrashed Anand at the Asian meet in 1975. Their father was very upset; the natural order had been overturned. Vijay received a severe reprimand.

Vijay (top); and Anand

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

six I used to cough up buckets of phlegm and a visit to hospital for a couple of bottles of intravenous was almost a daily occurrence.

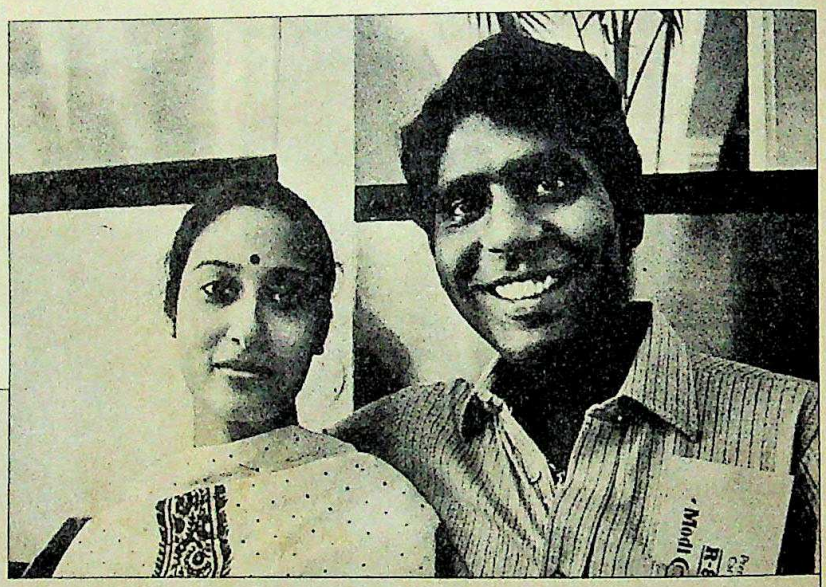
My older brother Anand was already taking tennis lessons and although my parents were determined that I should have the same opportunities to become proficient in the game, no one gave me a shot. For such a sickly kid it was considered a waste of time, a waste of money and a waste of a big effort...

It would have been easy to let me stagger along as best I could, simply making life as comfortable for me as possible, because we already had a potential star in the family. As an athlete Anand was strong, agile, and in perfect physical shape. As a student he was brilliant...

To put it mildly, I was not quite like that. Even when I was able to attend class without any interruption as a result of ill health it was obvious I was no genius and, with the constant help of my mother who often used to go and sit in class for me so that she could come home and give me the correct lessons, I just jogged along. I suppose my biggest advantage at school was my ability to get on with people. As a personality, I was always accessible to people, even from a very young age and I used to enjoy telling jokes and being the centre of attention.

I was certainly the centre of attention as far as my mother was concerned but for all the wrong reasons. I took up almost all of her time because I needed so much help just to get through the day. But it wasn't me alone. Our parents lived for the three of us. They never took a vacation. All their spare time and all their spare money went on our welfare and paying for the tennis lessons that, in our case, proved to be the best investment any family could have made. But they were not to know that at the outset, not merely because they had no idea how good any of us would become but also because, when they started shelling out 100 rupees a month for Anand's coaching and then another 100 for mine, there was no money to be earned from the game as there is today. The idea of becoming rich from playing

Vijay and Shyamala; (below) Robert



Arranged Match

Strangely, I suppose, for someone who may be perceived as a cosmopolitan and internationalised Indian, an arranged marriage was the perfect answer for me. Given my life-style and the values I held dear, there was almost no other solution.

For, despite all the people I had met and the relationship I had formed with some very charming and beautiful women in America and elsewhere I had never considered not marrying an Indian. In fact I tended to be a little more specific than that. I always had in mind to be married by the time I was 30 to a southern Indian girl, preferably Catholic, who would be at least six to eight years younger than I was....

So, at the age of 27, in 1980, I asked my parents to find me a wife. Delighted as they were, I think they felt the pressure to perform...

Mrs Wenceslaus called my mother to say that she and her three daughters would be in Madras that week. Perhaps, Shyamala's mother suggested, it might be a good opportunity to meet. By then my future bride's curiosity had been whetted by her best friend, Leila, back home in Colombo. Leila was a tennis nut who knew all about me and couldn't believe my parents had been making enquiries about Shyamala...So there was a flicker of interest on Shyamala's part, but only a flicker...

The next morning we went round to the Atlantic Hotel. Shyamala and I talked about everything except tennis, but the dreaded question of 'I know you play tennis but what do you do for a living?' never came. She was ignorant of professional sports but she was too intelligent to ask silly questions.

I am not, however, going to try to pretend that it was brainpower alone that swayed me. I definitely found her very attractive. Later I teased her when she asked what first attracted me by saying 'The shape of your butt!' As she was wearing jeans when we had our little talk at the hotel, she had given me plenty of opportunity to admire it.

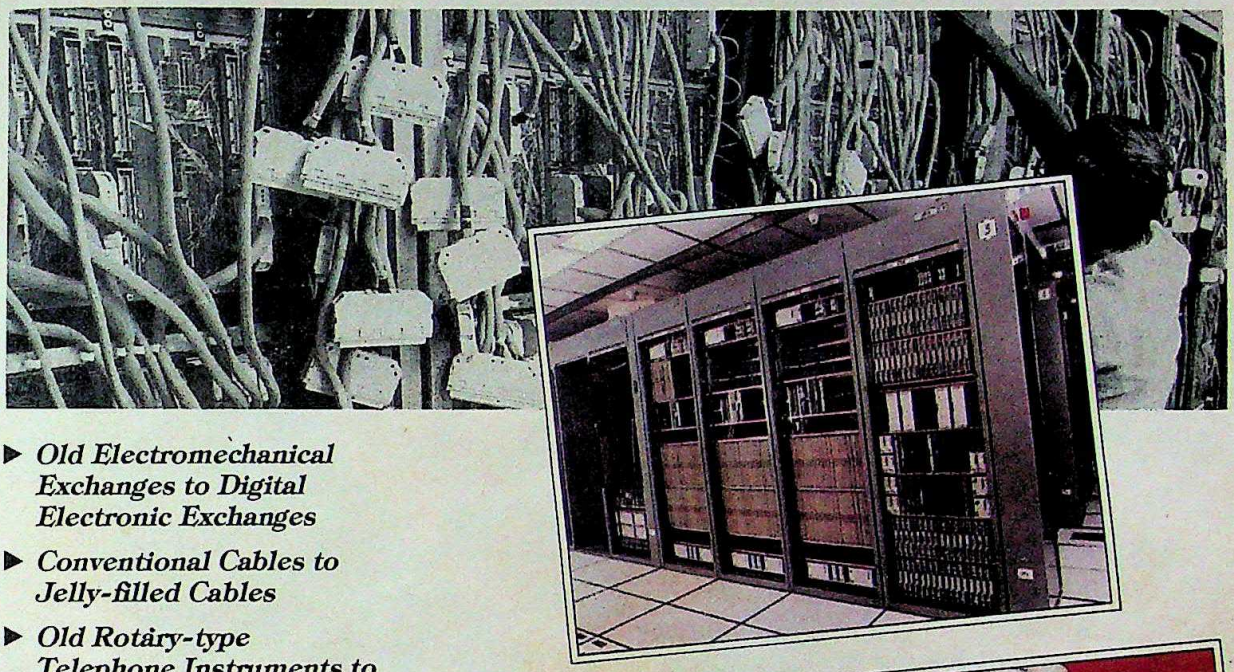
"Despite the relationships I had formed with some very charming and beautiful women in America and elsewhere I always had it in mind to be married to a southern Indian girl, preferably Catholic...."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Right From Day One...

Modernisation Marked Our Efforts To Win Customer Satisfaction



- *Old Electromechanical Exchanges to Digital Electronic Exchanges*
- *Conventional Cables to Jelly-filled Cables*
- *Old Rotary-type Telephone Instruments to Push Button Electronic Telephone Instruments*
- *Conventional Telephone Services to Modern Services: Fax, Videotext, Voice Mail and Phone-plus Services*

All these have contributed towards upgrading of the telecom services of Delhi and Bombay to reach international standards.

And, in a span of just 4 years, we did succeed in achieving a lot for our customers.

Setting New Servicing Standards

- Waitlist Position Reduced
- Record New Connections Given : 1,66,000 in Delhi and 2,00,125 in Bombay
- Local Call Completion Rate : 99.5% in Delhi and 98.22% in Bombay
- Public Call Telephones Installed : Total 4735 in Delhi and Bombay

Modern Communication Facilities Introduced

- Telecom Bureau
- Communication Centres
- Computerisation of Services to Enhance Efficiency

Inducting Latest State-of-the-Art Technologies

- Electronic Exchanges and RLUs
- Electronic Telex Services
- Now, STD Links 822 Cities and ISD Connects 178 Countries

Reaching Out to Our Customers

- Open House Sessions
- Telephone Adalats

Winning Acclaim

- "Excellence in Performance" Award 1986-87 from Bureau of Public Enterprises.

For the 3rd year in succession, MTNL declares a dividend of Rs 84 crores for 1988-89 — highest ever by any Public Sector Undertaking.

The secret of MTNL's success is the unyielding spirit and commitment of its people, who sincerely say:

We are trying harder!

Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Ltd.
(A Government of India Enterprise)
Corporate Office: Jeevan Bharti Building
Tower-1, 12th Floor, 124, Connaught Circus
New Delhi-110001

Exposition/MTNL/112

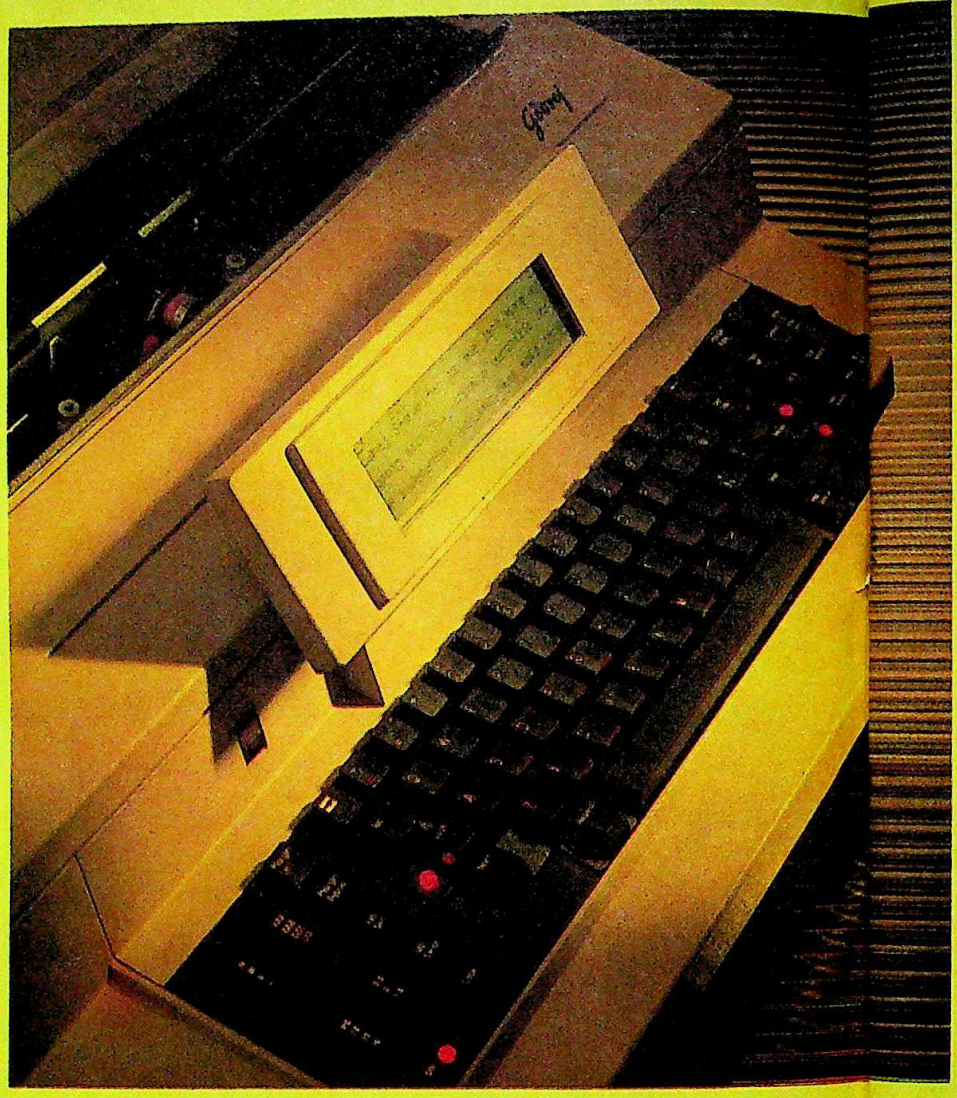
Our Pledge On The World Telecom Day — To Set New Standards In Telecom Services.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

You've never had so much

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Yes. Starwriter is the last word in typing machines. Uniquely talented, with a versatile range of independent add-ons.



Unlimited memory

Starwriter offers a floppy drive option to store more than your secretary types in a full year. And you have direct access to the floppies without going through tedious transfers. **Spell check** Throw out your office dictionary. The spell check option has a basic vocabulary of 80,000 words and is further user-upgradable. So even if

Ask

see v

ST

Ve

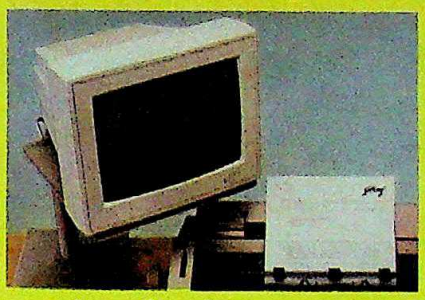
Godrej &
Bombay

E L E C T R O N I C B U S I N E S

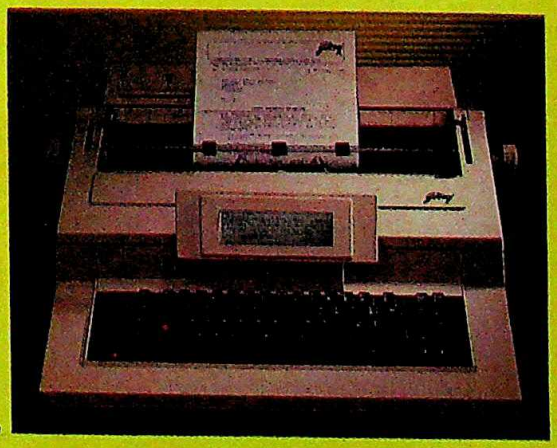
CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

talent sitting on your desk.

your typist cannot spell 'harassed' or 'embarrassed', no mistakes appear. **Video monitor**  Displays upto 25 lines on the full screen monitor. Powerful software governs the display outputs, making editing so much easier and faster. **Local area linking** All Starwriters can be interlinked at nominal cost. So just one spell check or floppy drive can be used by 3 or even 15 typists. Optimising resource utilisation and transfer of information. Starwriters can also type in two languages. And be linked to an electronic telex module. And so much more.

Ask for a demonstration today. And see what no other typewriter can do.



STARWRITER

Very, very talented.

Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd. Plant 16, Pirojshanagar, Vikhroli, Bombay 400 079. Tel: 589241/51/61/71. Tlx: 011-71502 GOVK

Godrej ELECTRONIC TYPEWRITERS ®EBE

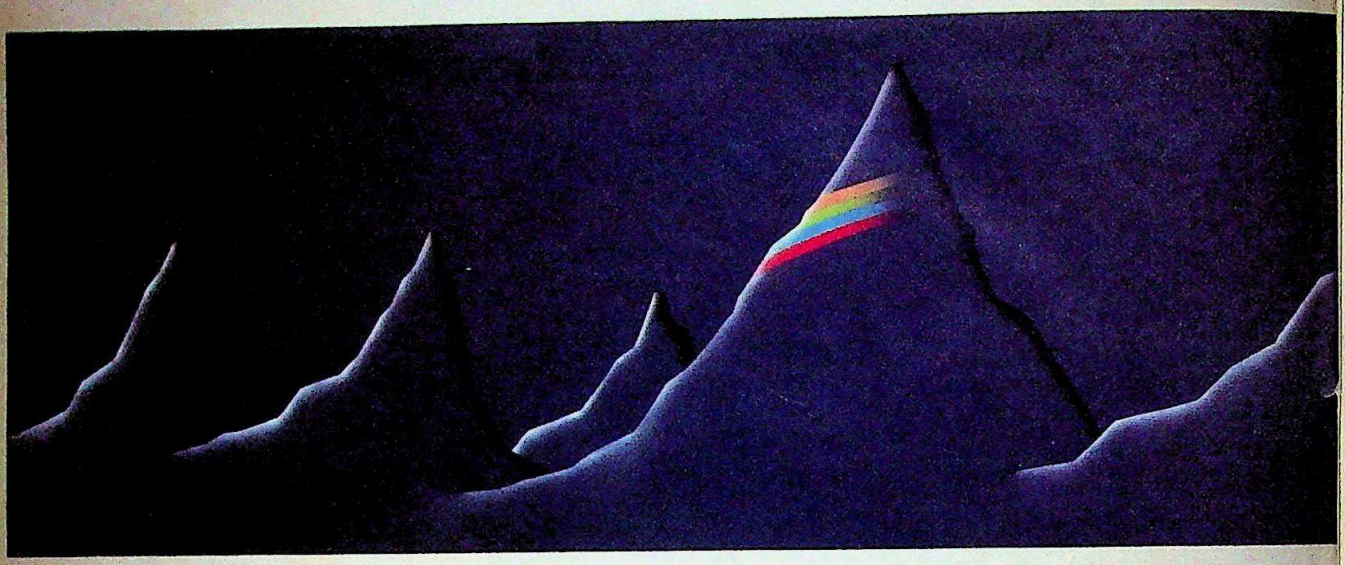
ULKA-12663

EQUIPMENT

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

As soon as we reach one summit, we strive for the next.



Century ... India's largest exporter of cotton textiles. Now also a leading producer of cement.

From a modest beginning in 1975, Century has blossomed into India's largest exporter of cotton textiles. Earning more than Rs. 100 crore in hard currency in the year 1989-90.

Over the years Century diversified into rayon yarn, tyrecord, minerals & chemicals, cement, pulp & paper and shipping. In all these areas the Company has made its mark.

In cement, the Company has achieved remarkable success in a short time. Cement manufactured at its most modern plants, CENTURY CEMENT, MAIHAR CEMENT, MANIKGARH CEMENT is now being marketed in almost all parts of the country.

Century is now exploring new avenues to create more productive assets for the country, and more opportunities for our people to better the quality of their lives.

CENTURY

Century Textiles and Industries Limited
Century Bhavan, Dr. Annie Besant Road, Worli, Bombay 400 025.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

— the dawn of a new era

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

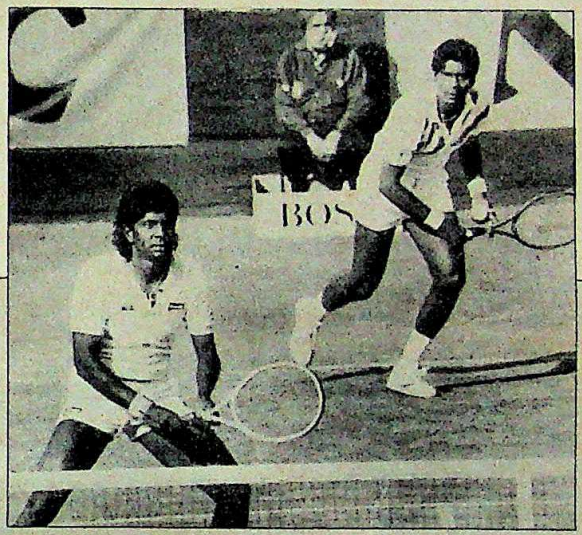
tennis was just not a consideration...

"Obviously we needed a little persuading," my mother recalls. "But one remark from Dr Rajan virtually settled it for us. He said, 'Millions of boys come out of college every year in India but there is only one Krishnan.'"

The idea that a Catholic family with no previous record of achievement in international sports could produce one son, let alone three, who could even remotely challenge the exploits of the great Ramanathan would have seemed absurd to a couple less determined and fearless than Robert and Maggie Amritraj. The Krishnans were Hindu Brahmins and although they lived in the same town, it must have seemed that they came from a different world. Yet now, some 20 years later, our worlds have merged, at least as far as tennis is concerned. The world of Indian tennis is Krishnan and Amritraj. The destiny of two families, so different in so many ways, yet tied by a common love for a magnificent game, have become intertwined in a remarkable and historic fashion...

BUT what distant dreams they must have been for Mummy and Daddy as they followed the old dictum of 'nothing ventured, nothing gained' and dug into their pockets for the 2,400 rupees required to set Anand off on the long road under the eagle eye of the man who would play such an important part in our development, coach Rama Rao. Rama Rao and Mummy—I tell you, it would have been difficult for any child of average talent not to have ended up as national champion with that kind of back-up. Even as a weak-chested, lazy kid, how could I fail? Failure just wasn't on the agenda...

Forgive me if I return to a point made earlier but, looking back now on what all three of us have achieved, I still find it quite extraordinary that one woman, one mother out of all the millions of mothers in India and all the thousands of millions of family units in the world, should have had this driving, obsessive determination to turn all three of her sons into tennis champions. One woman from Madras? Why Madras? How many families with all the right connections, facilities and geographical advantages try—and fail—to get one son or daughter through the gates of the All England Club with a competitor's pass



Vijay and Anand (left); Khanna: trading charges

Service Faults

SO the harsh truth of the matter is that the association has produced no one of international significance...

In discussing this problem, it is impossible to escape the fact the Indian tennis has laboured under a yoke called R.K. Khanna for much of the last twenty-five years. I was far from being the only person in Indian sports who was appalled when Khanna manipulated another term as secretary in 1988, because it meant we were heading back into the dark ages again after a brief period of enlightenment under P.L. Reddy...

Useless is, perhaps, too gentle a word to use in describing the way Khanna used to run Indian tennis in the late-sixties and early-seventies. His philosophy was based on the idea that the country's best players should be coerced into playing in official tournaments for minimum money. When as a junior on a shoestring budget, I played in a tournament in Amritsar, Khanna agreed to pay me ten rupees for expenses and then demanded an entry fee of twelve rupees. When Grand Prix tennis made a brief appearance in India in the mid-seventies, ATP officials like Jim McManus went home shocked by the double dealing that had gone on over the prize money...

What I came to resent most about Khanna's leadership was the rotten image he was creating for India and Indian tennis in the international community. "Oh, don't go to play in India, they'll rob you blind," was a comment one heard on numerous occasions in the locker room. But Khanna didn't care. He was too busy collecting awards for himself and doing nothing. When Krishnan led India to the Challenge Round of the Davis Cup against Australia in 1966 Khanna was awarded the Padma Shri and Krishnan got a handshake. When Krish, Anand and I took India through to the final again in 1974, Khanna received an even more prestigious honour, the Padma Bhushan. He didn't get these awards for being a great chartered accountant. He got them because the three of us worked desperately hard to produce the very best tennis of which we were capable while he sat on his backside trying to work out ways of paying us even less than he had agreed.

> "It is impossible to escape the fact that Indian tennis has laboured under a yoke called R.K. Khanna for much of the last 25 years. Useless is, perhaps, too gentle a word to use in describing the way he has run Indian tennis."

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

tied to their lapel? What kind of absurd vision did it take for one woman to believe that she could do it with three? I suppose you have to know my mother to have some idea of the answers to these questions and even then knowing her as well as I do, I am not sure I can fully explain it.

For the Krishnans across town it was, perhaps, a little easier in that at least they knew where they were going with little Ramesh because Ramanathan had been there before. They knew what it took. But my parents didn't. They were shooting for the stars and shooting blind. There is a continent, an ocean, and a couple of seas between playing singles for Madras University women's team and stepping out on the centre court at Wimbledon.

If all three of us had emerged from the womb not merely unknotted but blessed with the speed of Carl Lewis, the racket skills of Ilie Nastase and the total, concentrated immersion in his sport of a Sunil Gavaskar, then may be the whole enterprise would have made more sense. But despite Anand's appetite for work on the court and the strength he exuded as probably the best junior player India has ever seen, no one is ever going to bracket him with Nastase as far as tennis talent is concerned. Ashok, as Rod Laver was quick to spot, certainly had natural talent, but trying to let it develop naturally when you have two elder brothers who are already established Davis Cup players is no easy task.

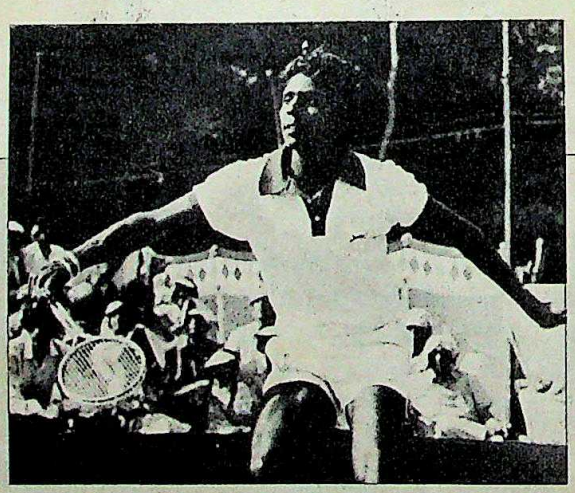
And then there was I. And you know what a pathetic case I was. People used to laugh when they heard my mother was paying good money to have me coached in tennis. "But the boy's an invalid," they would say. "And anyway his legs don't move properly. He'll never be an athlete."

> I was a pathetic case. People used to laugh when they heard my mother was paying good money to have me coached. 'But the boy's an invalid,' they'd say. 'He'll never be an athlete.'

It must have been hard to argue with them. My lungs became so bad after I had been playing tennis for a couple of years that one medical diagnosis suggested I had tuberculosis. But even though this suspicion turned out to be inaccurate, I was confined to hospital for several weeks and put on a strict diet with antibiotics.

So apart from the ironing board treatment—feet up, head down and pats on the back to bring out the phlegm—I also have something else to thank for my eventual recovery—our goats. They came one after the other because goats only produce milk for a few months at a time and it was for their milk that they were bought and sold. Goat's milk became part of my daily diet and whether or not medical science will support the theory, the treatment seemed to have a beneficial effect on my chest.

So the three of us were not exactly a cast-iron certainty for triumph in the demanding world of international tennis and, of the trio, I was the prime candidate for failure. But there was the treatment at the hospital; the ironing board; the goat's milk; my mother and a certain determination on my part not to give in. All these factors helped, but the overriding one was, of course, my mother.



Vijay: multi-faceted talent

Backhand Drubbing

At the US open in 1973 I was on the greatest high of my life. In the third round I had beaten the great Rod Laver... and went on to reach the quarter finals.

By then I was starting to think in terms of winning the tournament. But Gonzales was more cautious. He thought I had a chance but my next opponent was Ken Rosewall, Laver's contemporary who had defied logic by becoming one of the greatest players of his era without a killer shot. Pancho knew underestimating little Kenny meant death. Pancho translated this caution in tactical instruction. "Whatever you do" he said, "Don't serve to his backhand."

When we tossed, Kenny won and let me serve first. Strange. It was a blistering hot day, the balls were like pellets and he must have known, I had been serving brilliantly against Laver and Stone. Pretty cocky move.

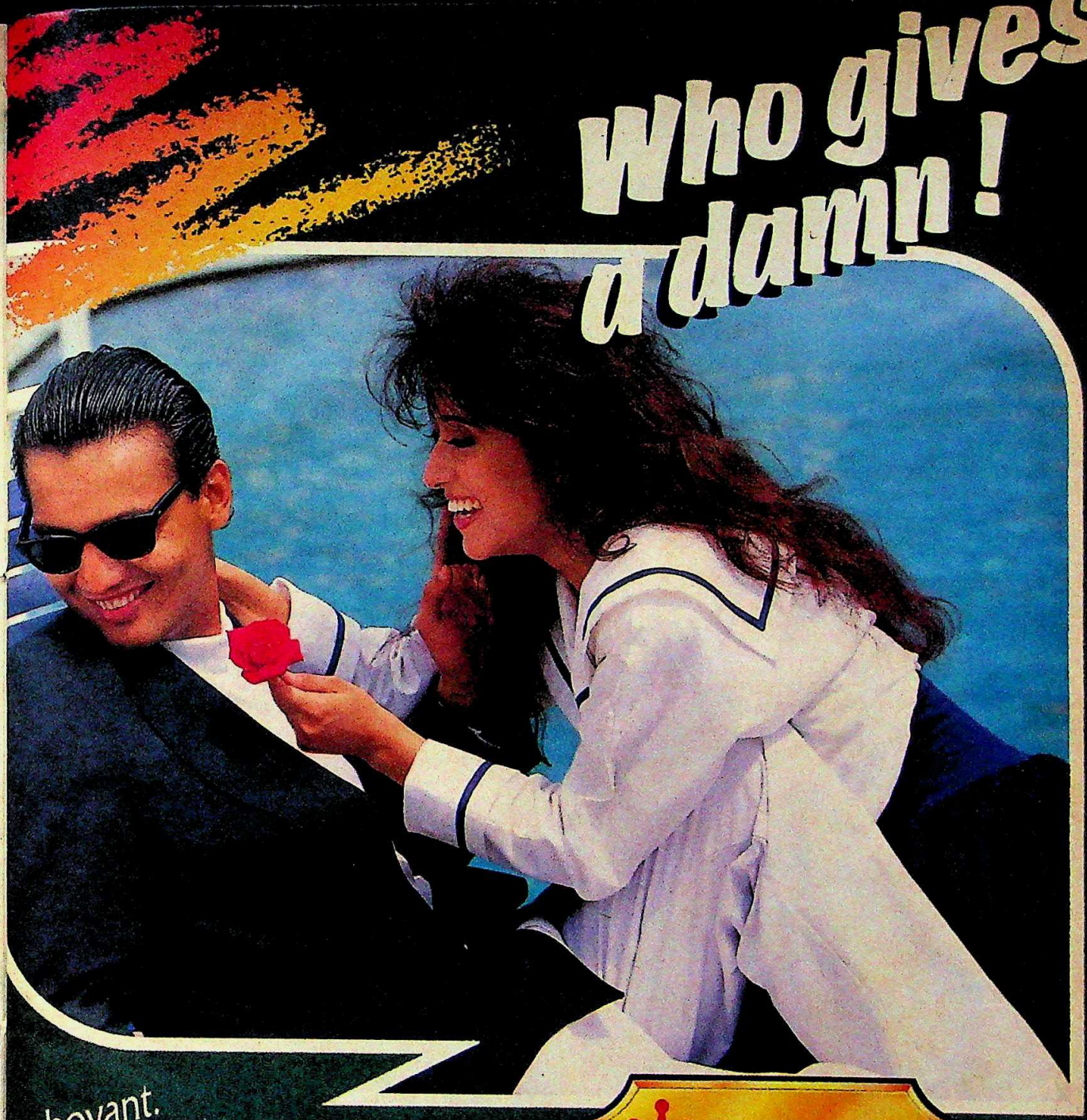
I took one last look at Pancho, and even as I prepared to throw the ball up to serve I remembered his advice. But there was Rosewall, this small figure with limited reach, standing so far over to the forehand side that both his feet were in the alley. You could drive a tank down the backhand side. "This is ridiculous," I thought. "This is an extremely fast court. I've got a big first serve and if I get it in there's no way he can even reach it from where he's standing."

So I served to the backhand. Took three paces in towards the net and watched the ball fly past me for a winner. "Fluke," I thought. So I served three more times to the backhand, never missed my first serve and never touched a volley. They were all past me before I could blink.

Sitting down, I picked up my towel and looked over to Gonzales. He wasn't there. "Hm, must have gone to get a drink," I thought. He hadn't gone to get a drink. Pancho had snatched his bag out of the locker, yelled for a cab and caught the first plane back to Las Vegas. We didn't speak for three months.

By the time I realised he'd gone, my concentration was as frazzled as my confidence. Rosewall was doing awful things to my wonderful serve and by the time he'd beaten me 6-3, 6-2, 6-2, I was very happy to get off the court.

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar



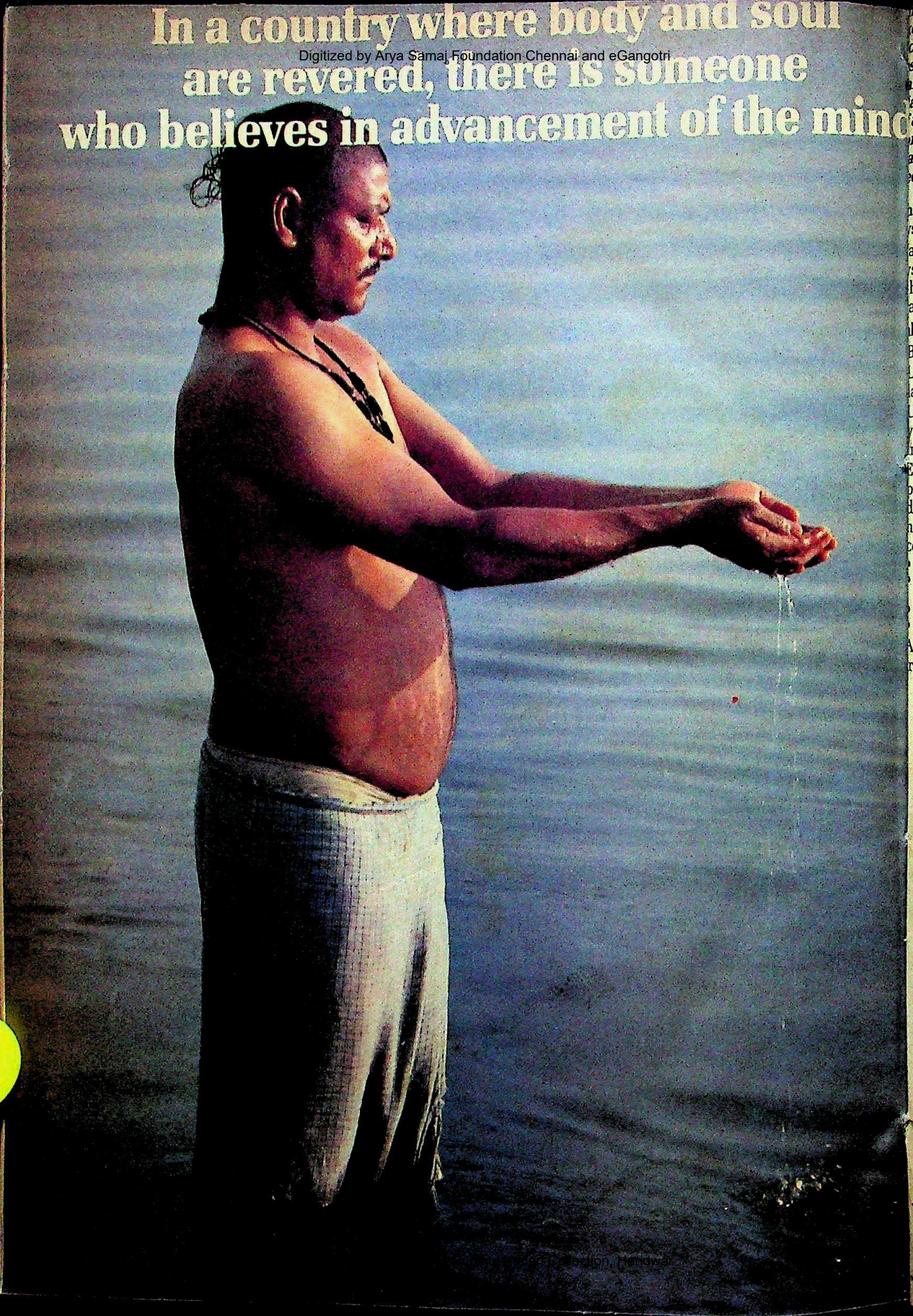
amboyant.
aring.
efying the rules.
nd the fabric —
swal Premium.

OSWAL®
PREMIUM
SUITINGS
PRODUCT OF ARIHANT FABRICS LTD.

For the rebel in you!

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

In a country where body and soul are revered, there is someone who believes in advancement of the mind



Arya Samaj Foundation, Haridwar

he India
cellence
cademy
source a
rnessing
aegabyte
'87 comp
mputer
andards.
ople in 3

he uniqu
stem
aegabyte
stem is u
help peo
actical p
lient Fea
Batch siz
Lecturers
anguage
Use of m
video, au
transpare
Each stu
personal
duration
he gets t
compute
Self-pace
Self evalu
compute
Tests
Final exa
About 60
raining.

WAMY/MCA/138

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

he Indian mind symbolises xcellence. Maegabyte Computer cademy believes in this priceless esource and commits itself to arnessing it. This is reflected in aegabyte's nationwide network 87 computer academies. Offering mputer education of the highest andards. Benefiting over 20,000 eople in 3 short years.

he unique Maegalearn Training ystem

aegabyte's Maegalearn Training ystem is used at all its academies help people use computers from a actical point of view.

lient Features:

Batch size restricted to 20 students.

Lecturers trained to teach in local anguages.

Use of modern learning aids like ideo, audio cassettes and ransparencies.

Each student is given a ersonalised floppy disk for the uration of the course. Using this, e gets to do the following on the omputer:

- Self-paced tutorials
- Self evaluation of learning through computerised quizzes
- Tests
- Final examination

About 60% practical computer raining.

Maegabyte has earned the confidence of major organisations

Maegabyte organises special computer training programmes for large organisations to help them improve their efficiency.

Some of the organisations trained by Maegabyte are:

Indian Oil Corporation, Bombay Port Trust, Union Bank of India, Mazagaon Docks Ltd., O.N.G.C., Indian Hotels Ltd. (Taj Group), Indian Tobacco Company Ltd., Mahindra & Mahindra Ltd., Gujarat Alkalies & Chemicals Ltd., Asea Brown Boveri, BHEL, ISRO, Doordarshan, Ministry of Defence.

A wide spectrum of computer courses

The courses at Maegabyte are designed to meet the needs of all kinds of people. They are divided into two categories:

Certificate Courses (For individual subjects)

Computer Awareness Programme	Pascal Programming
Wordstar	Programming in "C"
BASIC Programming	Advanced Programming in "C"
COBOL Programming	Introduction to Unix
dbase III Plus	Advanced Unix
Lotus 1-2-3	Shell Programming under Unix
Systems Analysis and Design	"C" under Unix
FORTRAN Programming	

Diploma Courses
(For comprehensive coverage)

Diploma in Computer Applications
Diploma in Commercial Programming
Diploma in Scientific Programming
Post Graduate Diploma in Computer Science

Maegabyte Computer Academy Locations

• ANDHRA PRADESH • Anantapur* • Godavarikhani • Guntur • Hyderabad* • Kakinada* • Karimnagar • Khammam • Mahaboob Nagar* • Mancherial • Moghulpura* • Nizamabad • Srikakulam • Vijayawada • Vishakhapatnam • Warangal • ARUNACHAL PRADESH • Itanagar • ASSAM • Dibrugarh* • Guwahati • Jorhat • Silchar • Tezpur • BIHAR • Dhanbad • Patna • Purnea • GOA • Margaon • Panjim • GUJARAT • Ahmedabad • Anand • Bardoli • Baroda • Bhavnagar* • Dahod* • Godhara • Kapadwanj • Khambat • Mehsana* • JAMMU & KASHMIR • Jammu* • KARNATAKA • Gangavati* • Hassan • Shimoga* • KERALA • Cochin • Palghat* • Trivandrum* • MADHYA PRADESH • Indore • Jabalpur • Raipur* • Satna* • Ujjain • MAHARASHTRA • Ahmednagar • Aurangabad* • Baramati* • Bombay • Dhule* • Nanded* • Nashik • Pune • Satara • Vashi • NAGALAND • Kohima* • ORISSA • Berhampur • Bhubaneshwar • Cuttack • Jharsuguda* • Rourkela • TAMIL NADU • Madras • Madurai • Trichy • TRIPURA • Agartala* • UTTAR PRADESH • Allahabad • Firozabad • Kanpur • Lucknow • Maunath Bhanjan* • Varanasi • WEST BENGAL • Calcutta* • Siliguri.

(Opening shortly)*

Yes. I would like to know more about Maegabyte Computer Academy.

Please:

☐ Call on me
☐ Send me brochures

Name: _____

Designation: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

Pin: _____ Phone: _____

Nature of my activity:

☐ Business ☐ Professional ☐ Service
☐ Housewife ☐ Student ☐ Others

Mail coupon to:
Maegabyte Computer Academy
Krislon House, 1st floor,
Saki Vihar Road, Saki Naka,
Andheri (E), Bombay 400 072.

Regd. Office:
Krislon House, 1st floor,
Saki Vihar Road, Saki Naka,
Andheri (E), Bombay 400 072.
Tel: 6366582 Tlx: 011-79318 MEGA IN

Zonal Offices:
Bombay Tel: 6320135; Calcutta Tel: 432370, 441784; Delhi Tel: 674919; Madras Tel: 71553.

maegabyte

COMPUTER ACADEMY

(A Division of Maegabyte Consultancy Services Private Limited)

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Helping India challenge the '90s

WAMY/MCA/138

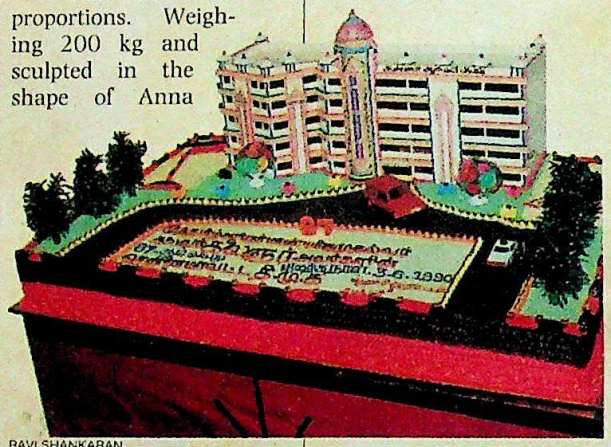
Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

ROHIT CHAWLA

Remo: Pepsi Pop

◆ It's the most expensive commercial made for Indian television—and the longest. But that's hardly surprising considering the client—Pepsi—and the models—India's best-known pop star Remo and actress Juhi Chawla. The multinational finally launched its soft drink in three metros last fortnight and the commercial—which reportedly cost Rs 49 lakh—is intended to prove that Pepsi is "the zing thing". It is slated for prime time and lasts a full 90 seconds while Remo and Juhi do a song-and-dance *jugalbandi* to convey the message that "Pepsi is from the West but is as good for the East". The soundtrack is composed by Remo and the commercial directed by Vinod Chopra of *Parinda* fame. But it must have been exhausting. Remo says no more commercials for him, adding slyly: "Maybe just for Coke!"

◆ It literally takes the cake. For his 67th birthday last fortnight, Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M. Karunanidhi celebrated with a birthday cake of outlandish proportions. Weighing 200 kg and sculpted in the shape of Anna Arivalayam, the DMK headquarters in Madras—complete with trees, shrubs and parked cars in the driveway—the vanilla flavoured cake was an incredible 6 ft long, 3 ft wide and 3 ft high. The cost: a mere Rs 12,000. For the birthday boy (sic), the cake was also the high point of a three-day celebration to mark another milestone in the DMK supremo's life. His supporters demolished the mammoth pastry in a matter of seconds—only showing their hunger for power.



RAVI SHANKARAN

Karunanidhi's cake: Oh boy!

◆ "I want to be the Steffi Graf of India" is how she confidently puts it. After last fortnight's spectacular performance, nobody's laughing any more. Certainly not the red-faced boys participating in the Delhi State Junior Tennis Tournament who had no answer to her power-packed serve and delicate ground strokes. For **Shalini Thakur**, 12, beating the pants off boys is nothing new and the prospect of being the first girl to win a junior boys tournament left her unfazed. Not that she had a choice. She found herself in the boys' under-12 section due to the lack of girl entries. Next step—professional tennis. Move over Jennifer Capriati.

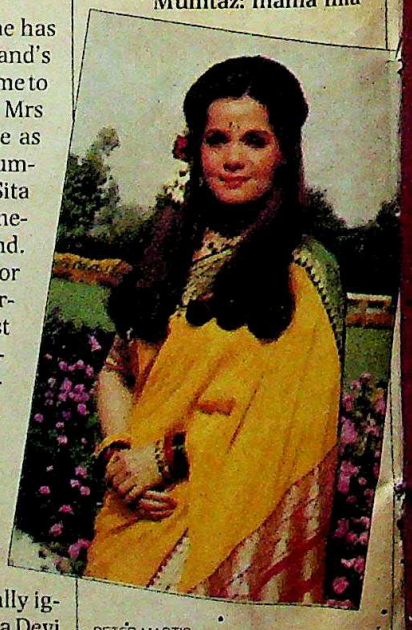
Shalini: 'Graf'ic skills

◆ For six months, she has stayed in her husband's shadow. But now it's time to abandon the title of Mrs V.P. Singh and emerge as **Sita Devi**. In Kuala Lumpur last fortnight, Sita Devi was more in the limelight than her husband. For three days, all major Malaysian papers carried pictures of the first lady visiting the Karyaneka handicraft village, the orchid and hibiscus garden, and Indian temples. The Malays also hosted a mock wedding for the spouses of visiting dignitaries. With V.P. Singh virtually ignored by the media, Sita Devi clearly felt at least one member of the family needed to make its presence felt.

Sita Devi: prime presence

◆ The famous pout is still in evidence. And the arched eyebrows. As for the rest, well, time and the good life as a millionaire's wife have taken their toll. But for all that, it's good to have her back. **Mumtaz**, the once-curvaceous star, made her cinematic comeback last fortnight in *Aandhiyan* after a gap of 16 years, playing with commendable *joie de vivre*, a crusading journalist who has an Oedipal relationship with her college-going son. Says Mumtaz: "I proved myself at 16 and I'm determined to do so at 42."

Mumtaz: mama mia



PETER MARTIS

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

MADE IN INDIA
A BRAND OWNED
BY I.T.C. LTD.

Every genuine
WILLS GOLD FLAKE
cigarette bears the name
W.D. & H.O. WILLS

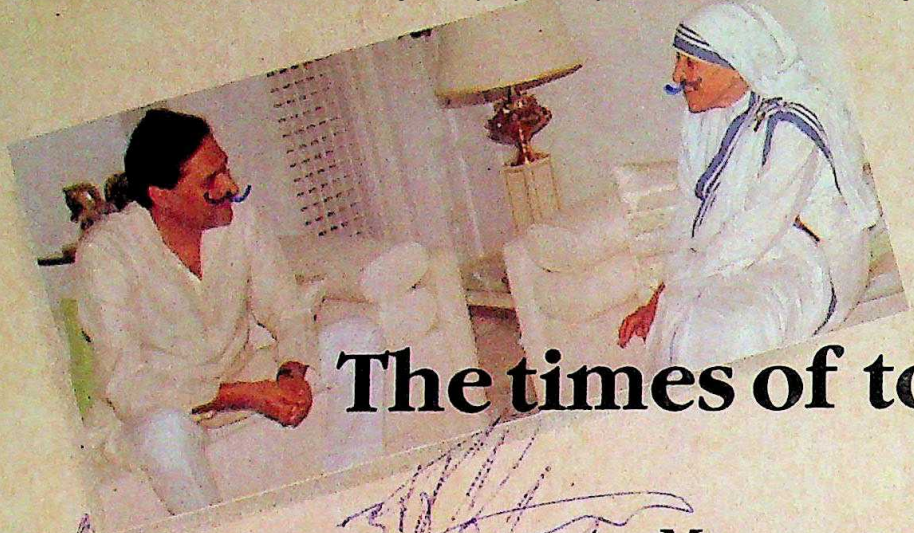
STATUTORY WARNING: CIGARETTE SMOKING IS INJURIOUS TO HEALTH

CLARION C-GFK 16R1

CC-0. In Public Domain. Panini Kanya Maha Vidyalaya Collection.

WB/CC-528; MH/BY/SOUTH/103; TN/MSN/644

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri



The times of tomorrow

Mahatma Gandhi's ideals triumphed because they were always conceived on a bedrock of practicality.

Thus, by adopting his principles as its corporate philosophy, and concentrating on the basic needs of the people, the Bajaj Group laid a foundation which should continue to serve it well even into the next century.

Products of the right quality, at the right price, to meet the needs of the greatest number possible. A conscious effort to provide a fair deal to the consumer through self-regulation. Promoting community welfare through developmental work and social service.

In a nation where 800 million people must be fed, clothed and housed, the Bajaj Group has a leading presence in industries which will continue to be fundamental to the Indian economy for many decades to come. Sugar, cement, steel, electric bulbs, fluorescent lighting, fans, economical electrical appliances which improve the quality of life for the common man.

In the automotive field particularly, the contribution of the Group has been awesome. Bajaj Auto has already put over three million scooters, motorcycles and commercial vehicles on the road. Soon, this will increase to over one million a year.

However, if India is to enter the next century as a significant power, future growth will have to come from our country's achievements abroad as much as from within.

Import substitution will not be sufficient to meet the nation's needs for foreign exchange to acquire the advanced technologies we need to compete with the developed countries.

India must concentrate on exporting in fields where it possesses comparative advantages. Goods which are of international quality and competitively priced will meet domestic demand too.

And it can be done. As Rahul Bajaj, Chairman of Bajaj Auto has said, "Regardless of where a company operates, if the consumer's interest is kept foremost when tackling any problem, one will generally come up with the right answer."

Such are the perspectives of the future at the House of Bajaj. Visions based on beliefs which have sustained it with distinction, and with dignity, for four generations.

bajaj auto

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

Compiled
10-9-2008

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri

CC-0. In Public Domain. Gurukul Kangri Collection, Haridwar

Digitized by Arya Samaj Foundation Chennai and eGangotri